

## ANANT PAI

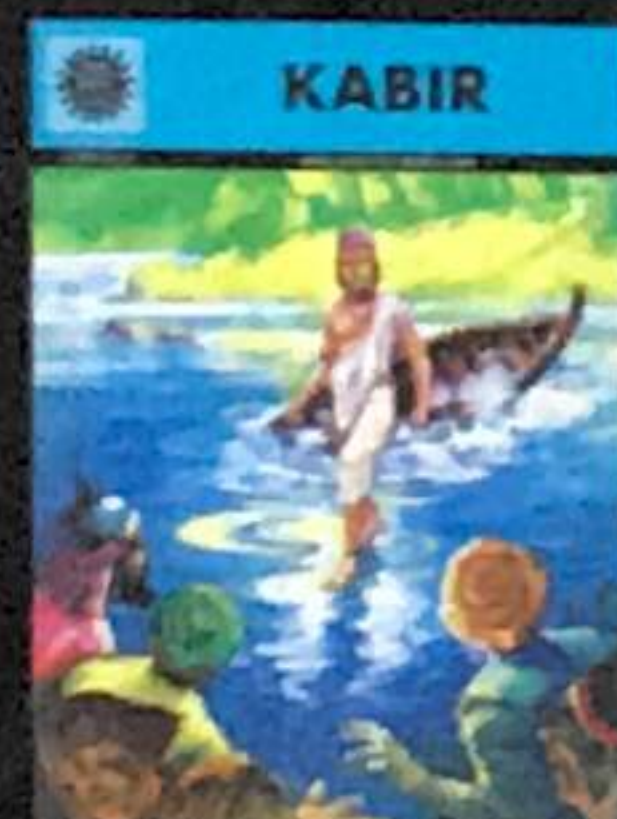


Anant Pai strode the Indian comics industry like a colossus. Using the comics format he told stories from mythology, history and literature to generations of children.

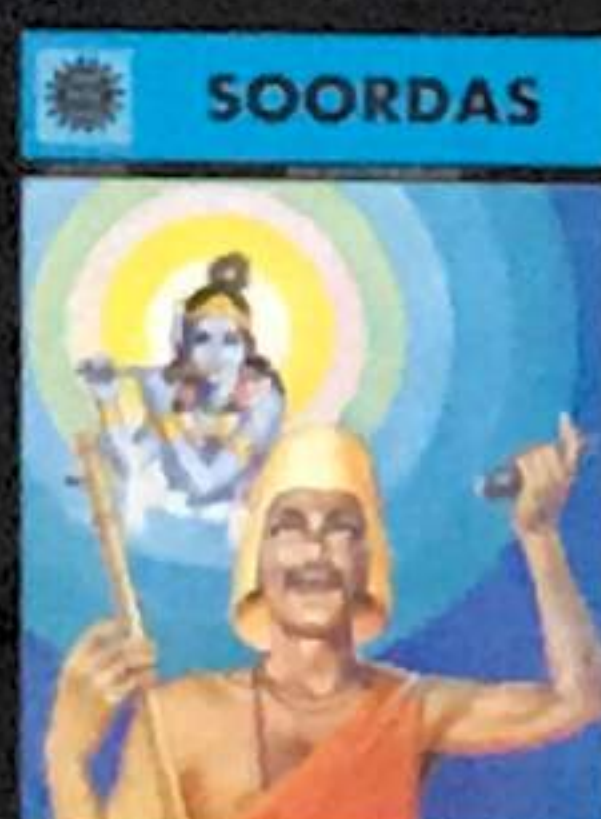
Uncle Pai, as he was known, wanted Indian children to be familiar with their heritage. He believed that it helped build self-esteem and confidence. A chemical engineer by profession, Anant Pai gave up his job to follow his dream, a dream that led to the creation of Amar Chitra Katha and Tinkle.

Amar Chitra Katha pays tribute to its creator and traces the story of the man who left behind a legacy of learning and laughter.

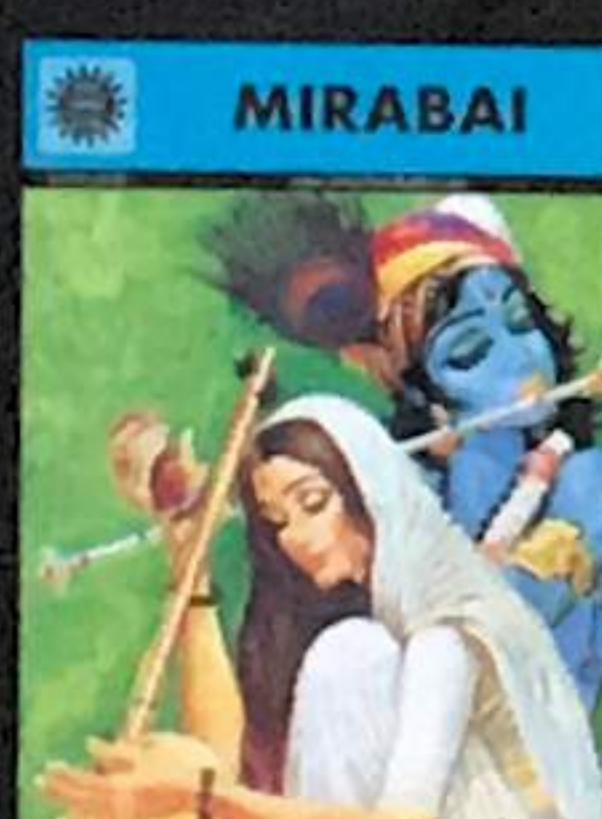
### OTHER ACK VISIONARIES



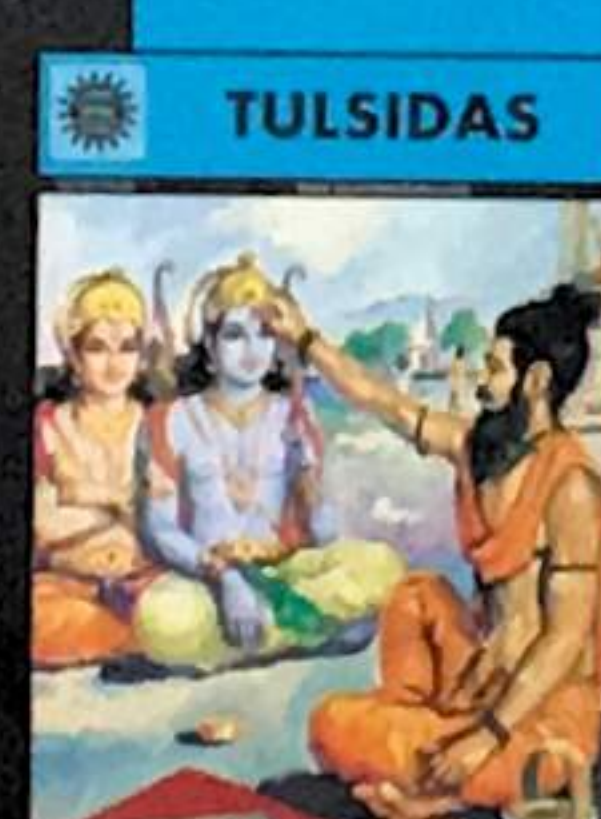
KABIR



SOORDAS



MIRABAI

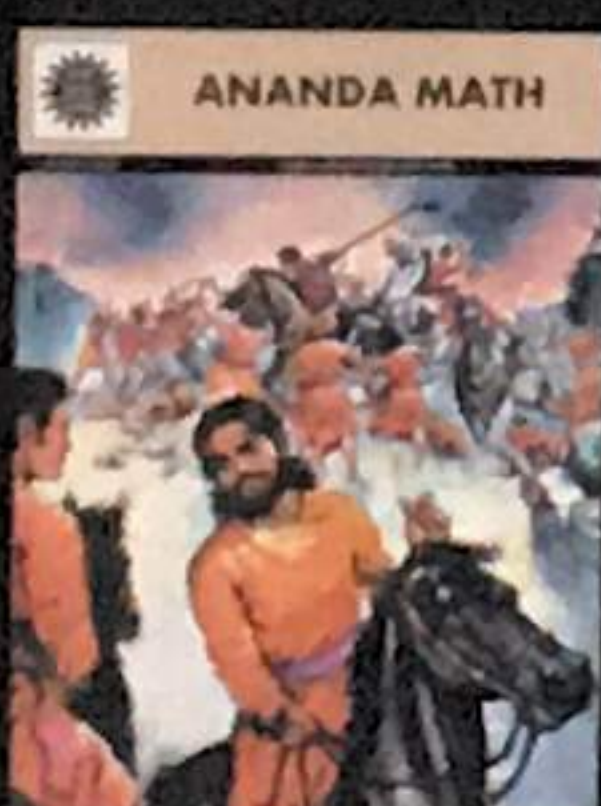


TULSIDAS

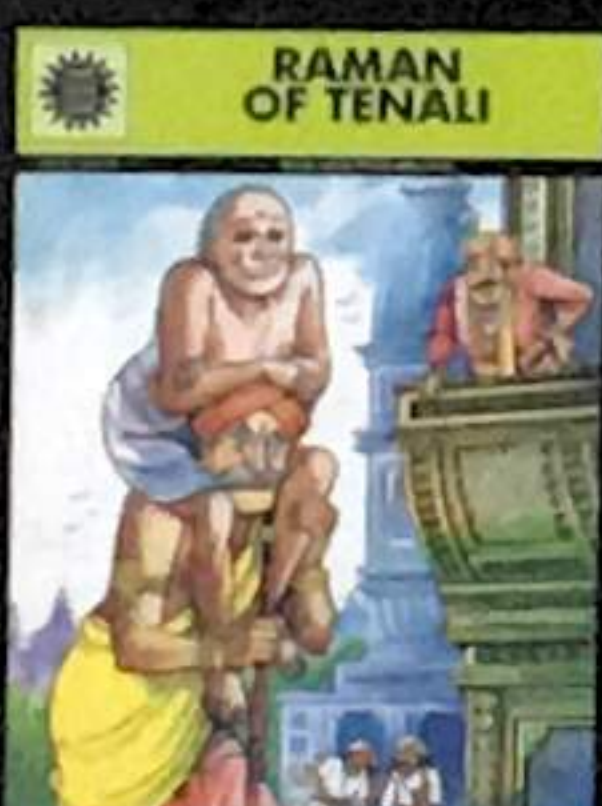
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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

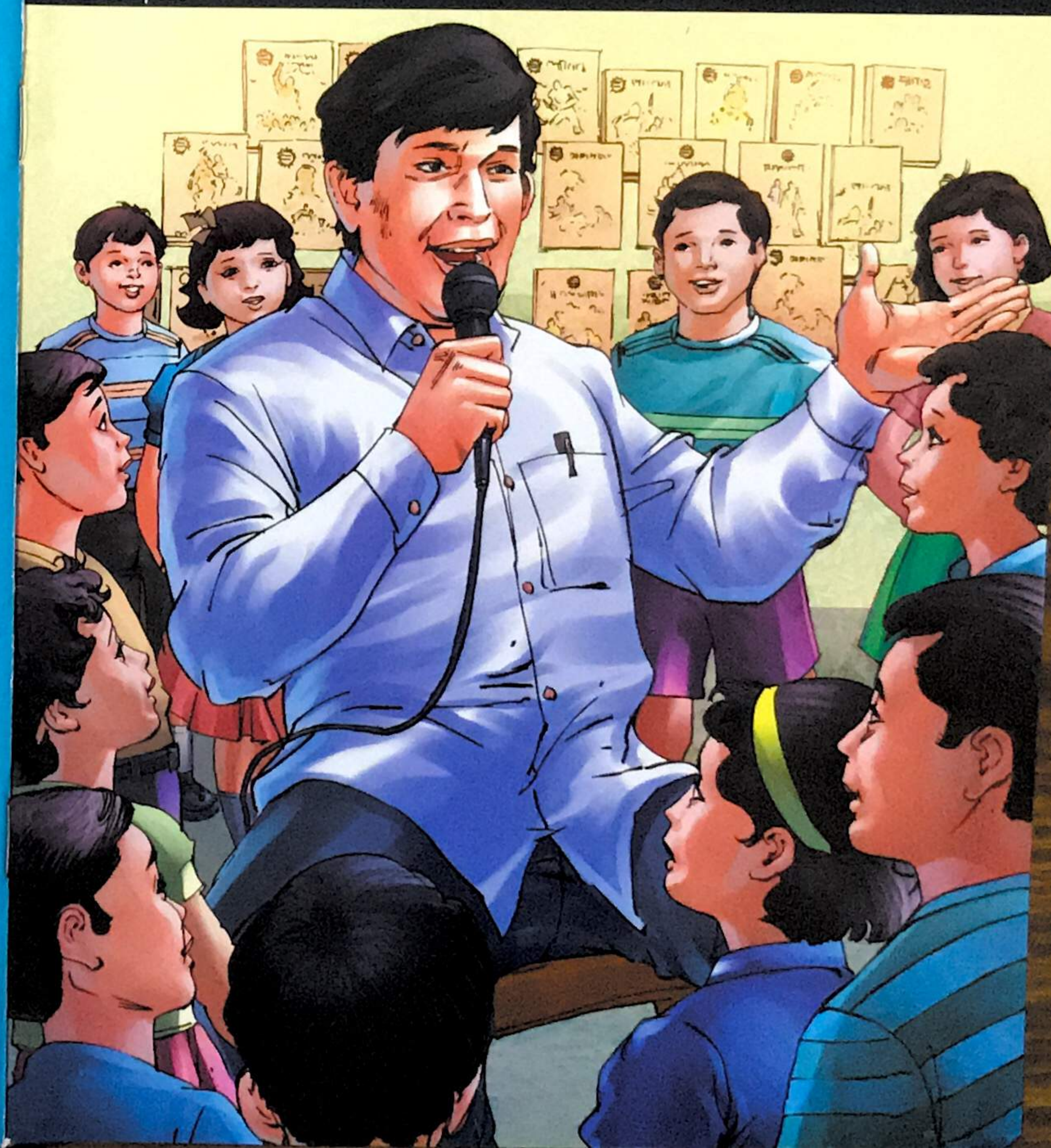
## VISIONARIES



# ANANT PAI

MASTER STORYTELLER

Vol 834 | ₹50



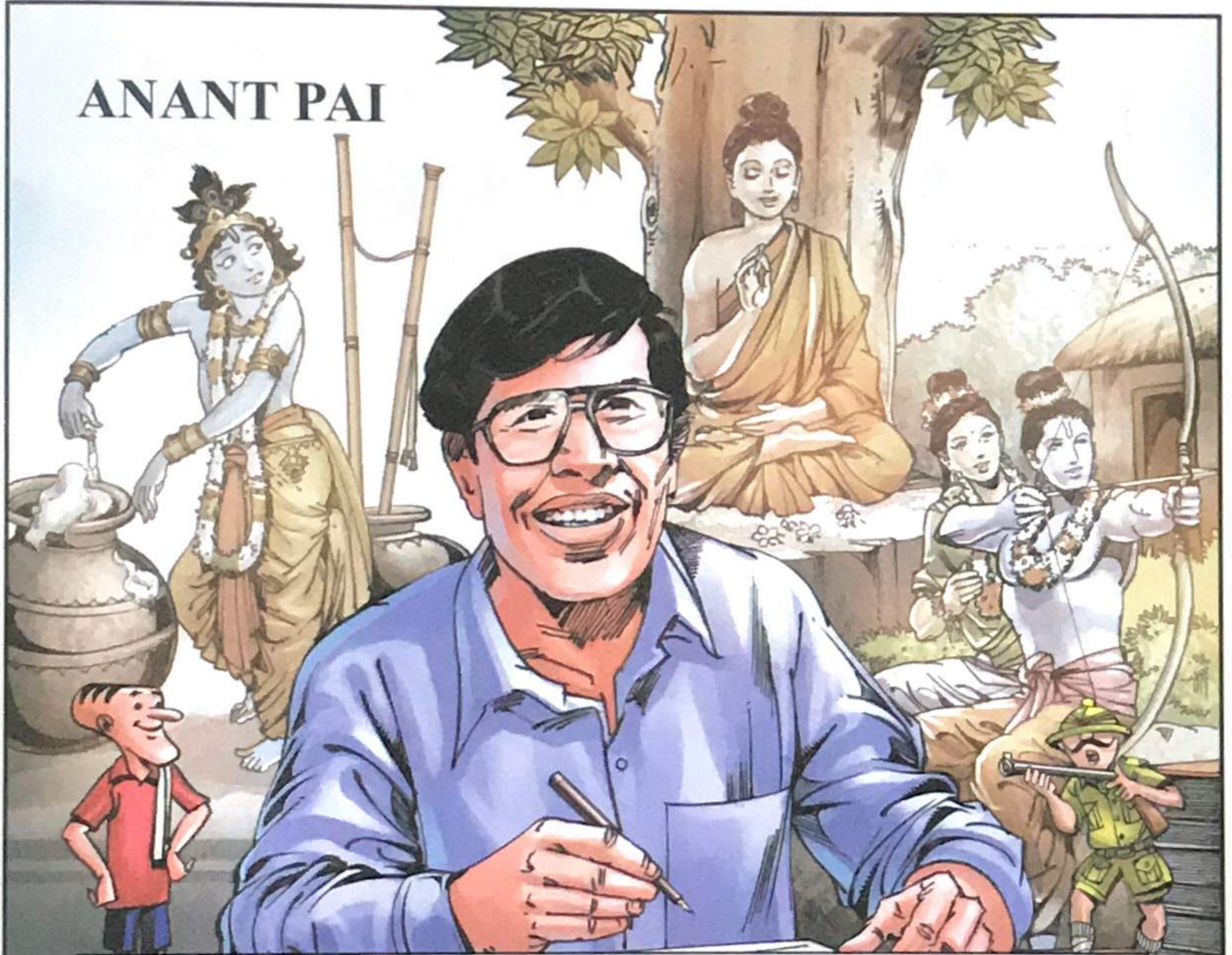
ISBN 978-81-8482-730-9



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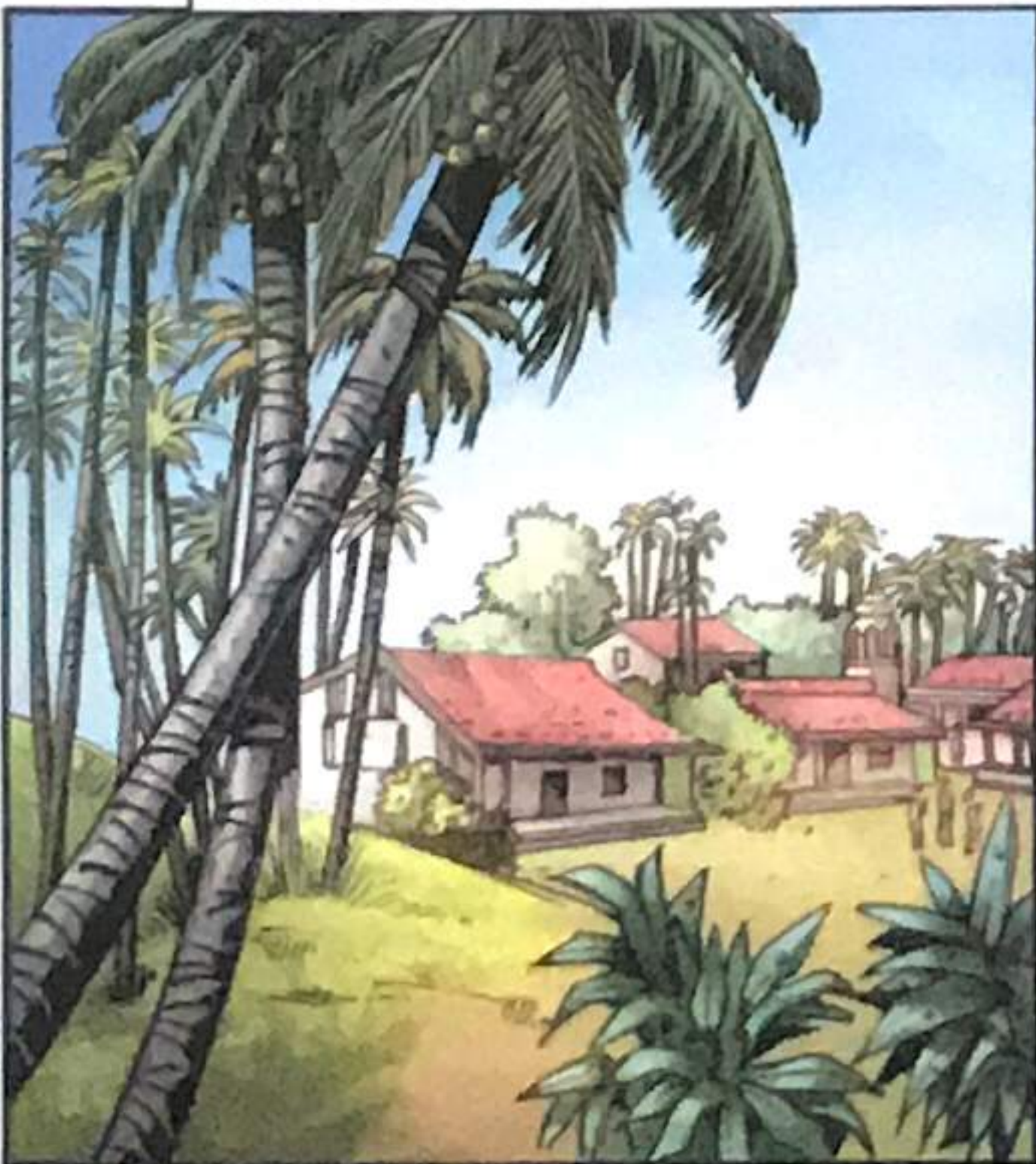


## ANANT PAI



ANANT PAI WAS ONE OF INDIA'S GREATEST STORYTELLERS. HE BROUGHT TO LIFE THE BEST STORIES OF THIS LAND. HE ALSO CREATED SOME OF THE MOST ENDEARING CHARACTERS IN INDIAN COMICS.

HIS OWN STORY BEGAN IN THE SMALL VILLAGE OF KARKALA IN KARNATAKA, SOUTH INDIA, IN 1929. IT WAS THE YEAR THAT BHAGAT SINGH LOBBED BOMBS INTO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AND BECAME A YOUTH ICON OF HIS TIMES. AND IT WAS THE YEAR THAT TARZAN, THE FIRST ADVENTURE COMIC STRIP IN THE WORLD, MADE ITS APPEARANCE FAR AWAY IN AMERICA.





THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN BALKUNJE VENKATARAYA SHENOY'S HOUSE. HIS DAUGHTER, SUSHEELA, HAD JUST GIVEN BIRTH TO HER SECOND CHILD. IT WAS THE 17TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1929.



LOOK, PREMA, YOUR LITTLE BROTHER IS HERE.

OOOH! HE'S SO TINY. CAN I HOLD HIM?



CAREFUL!

DON'T WORRY, SUSHEELA. LOOK HOW WELL SHE IS HOLDING HIM.



ANANT'S FATHER, IRVATHUR VENKATARAYA PAI, WORKED IN BOMBAY.

I HAVE A SON! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE HIM!

THE BABY BOY WAS NAMED ANANT.

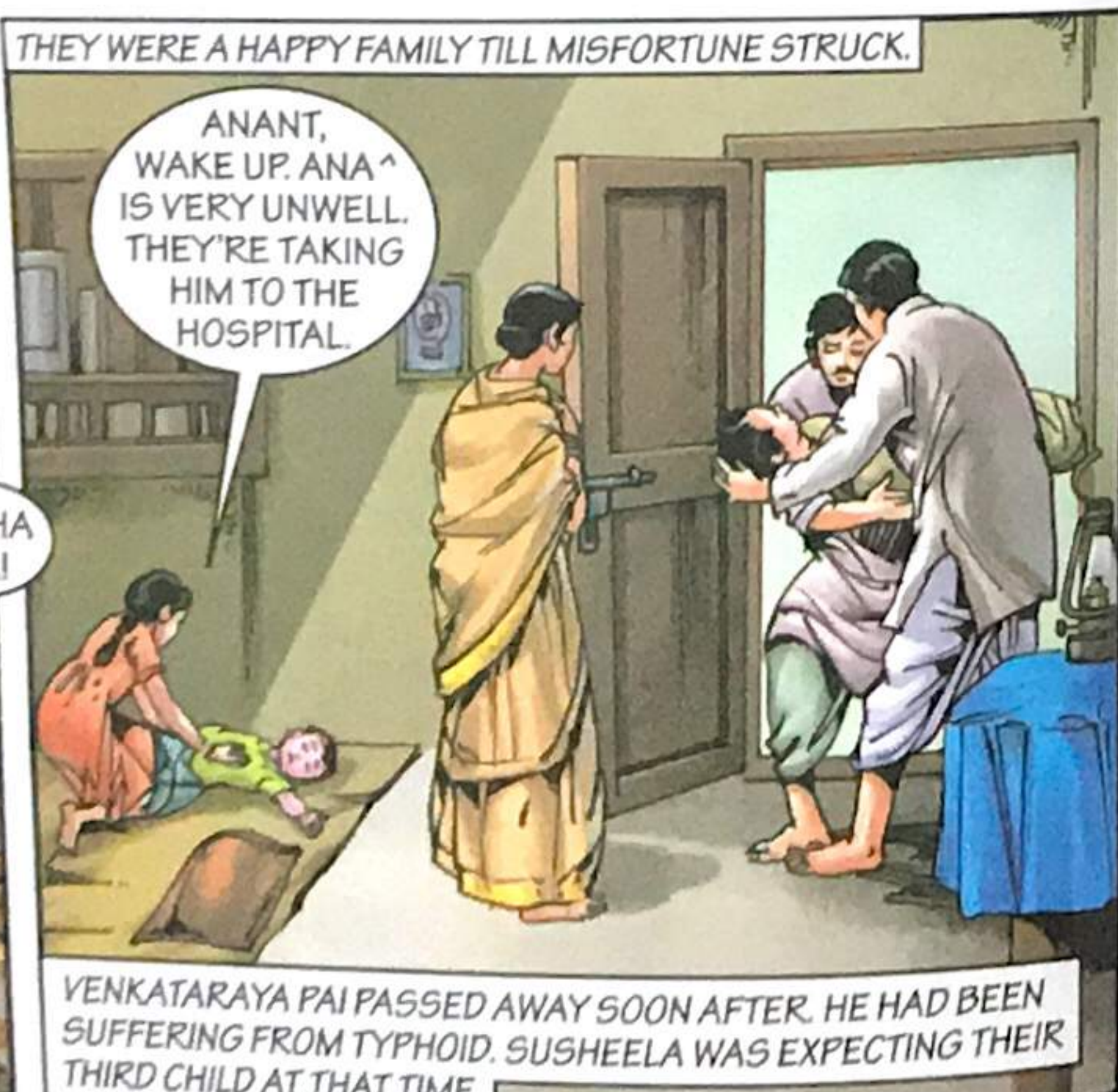
BUT HE HAD TO WAIT FOR A FEW MONTHS TILL ANANT COULD TRAVEL WITH HIS MOTHER AND SISTER TO BOMBAY.



BABU\* IS SO CURIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING.

IS THAT WHY HE PUTS EVERYTHING IN HIS MOUTH?

HA HA HAI



THEY WERE A HAPPY FAMILY TILL MISFORTUNE STRUCK.

ANANT, WAKE UP. ANA^ IS VERY UNWELL. THEY'RE TAKING HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.

VENKATARAYA PAI PASSED AWAY SOON AFTER. HE HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM TYPHOID. SUSHEELA WAS EXPECTING THEIR THIRD CHILD AT THAT TIME.

\* BABU WAS ANANT'S PET NAME.  
^ FATHER IN KONKANI

DEVASTATED, THE FAMILY RETURNED TO KARKALA WHERE LITTLE SAVITA WAS BORN.



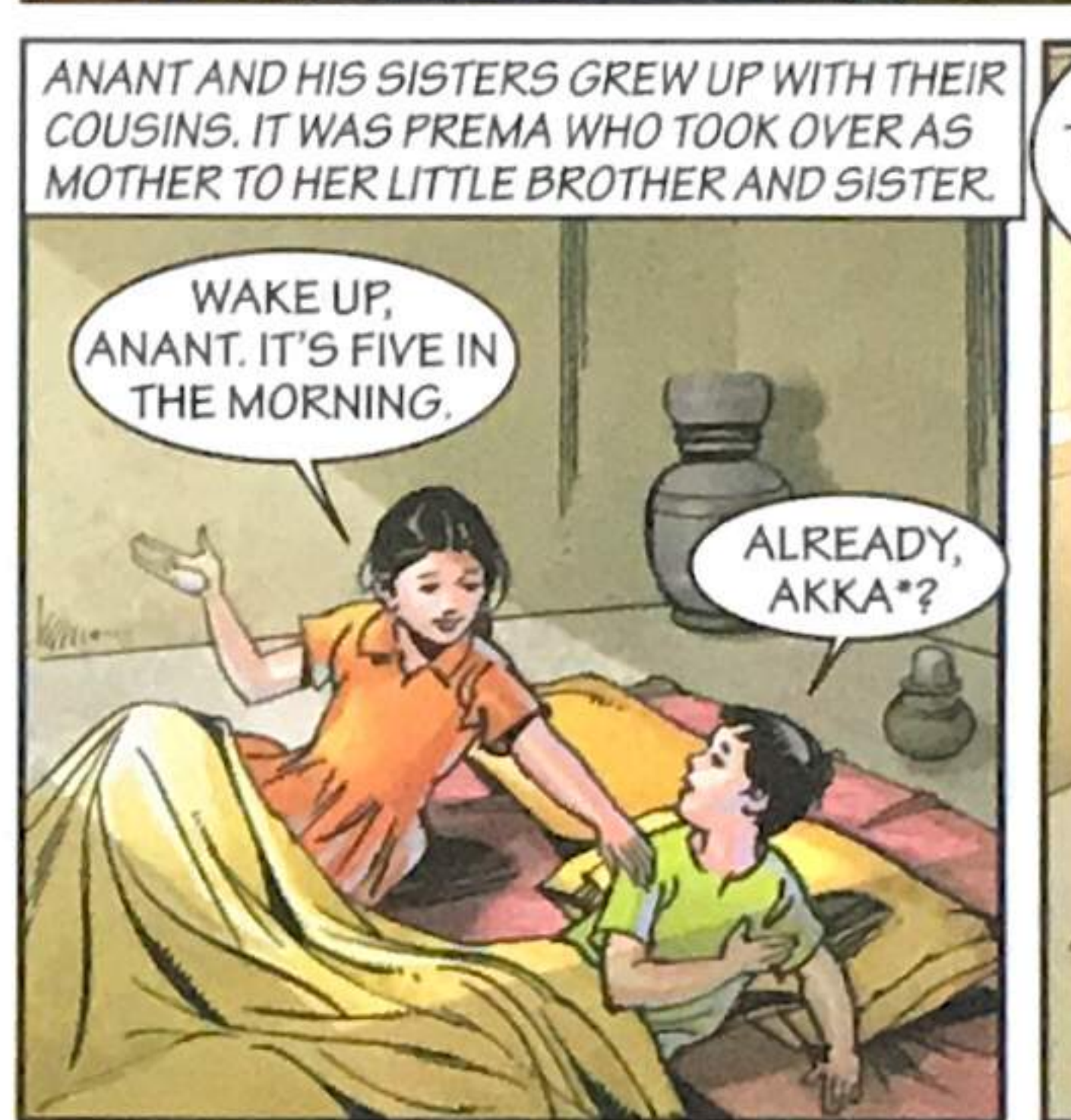
I AM VERY WORRIED ABOUT SUSHEELA. SHE IS SO WEAK. I HAVE NOT SEEN HER SMILE IN DAYS.

WE'RE THERE WITH HER. WE WILL LOOK AFTER HER.

BY A CRUEL TWIST OF FATE, SUSHEELA ALSO PASSED AWAY WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. ANANT WAS JUST TWO YEARS OLD.



MY POOR DAUGHTER! I WILL LOOK AFTER YOUR CHILDREN.



ANANT AND HIS SISTERS GREW UP WITH THEIR COUSINS. IT WAS PREMA WHO TOOK OVER AS MOTHER TO HER LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER.

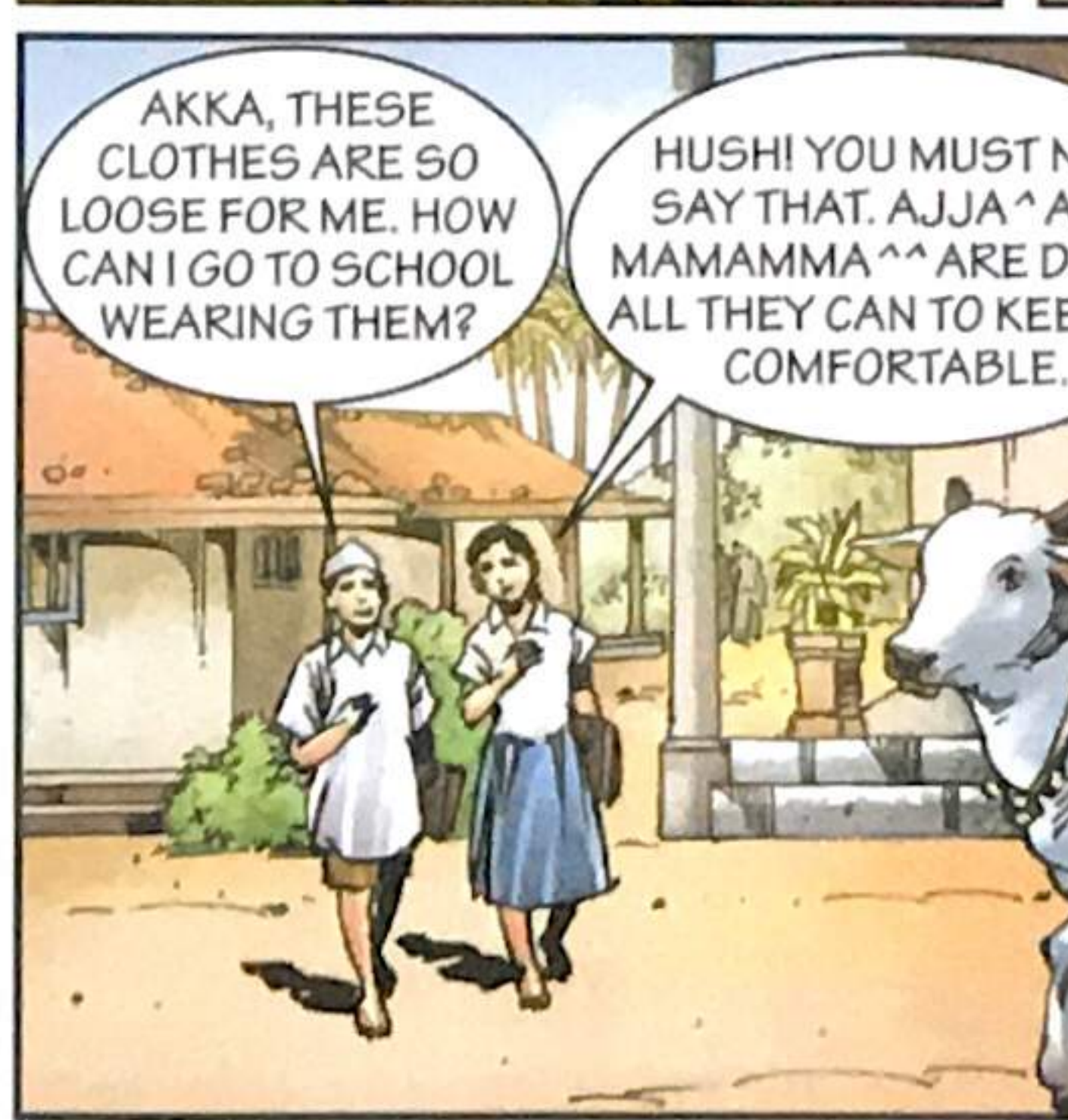
WAKE UP, ANANT. IT'S FIVE IN THE MORNING.

ALREADY, AKKA\*?



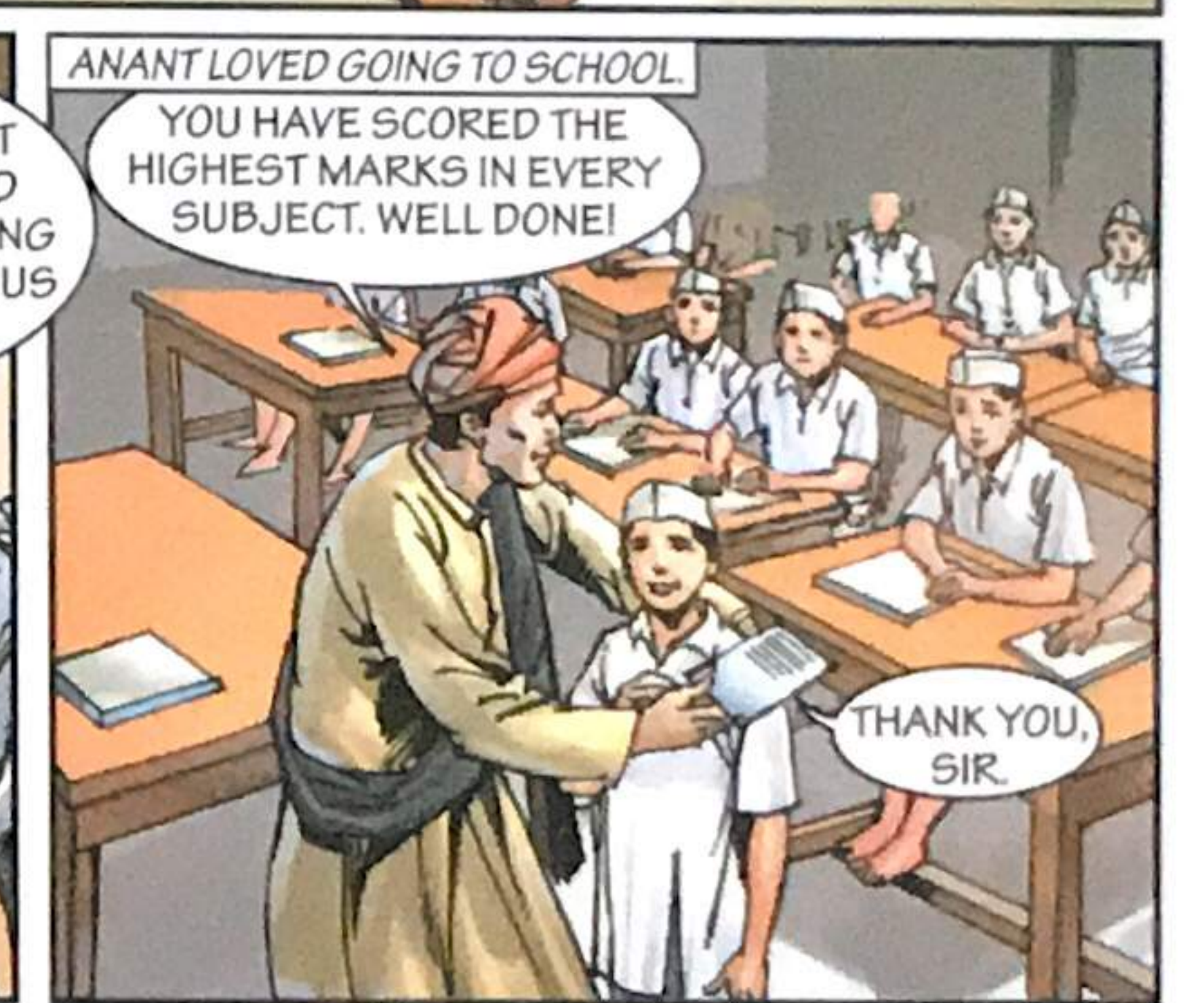
I HAVE TO SWEEP THE COURTYARD. GO TO THE WELL FOR YOUR BATH AND COME BACK SOON. WE HAVE TO WALK TO SCHOOL.

YES, AKKA.



AKKA, THESE CLOTHES ARE SO LOOSE FOR ME. HOW CAN I GO TO SCHOOL WEARING THEM?

HUSH! YOU MUST NOT SAY THAT. AJJA^ AND MAMAMMA^^ ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN TO KEEP US COMFORTABLE.



ANANT LOVED GOING TO SCHOOL.

YOU HAVE SCORED THE HIGHEST MARKS IN EVERY SUBJECT. WELL DONE!

THANK YOU, SIR.

\* OLDER SISTER ^ GRANDFATHER  
^^ GRANDMOTHER

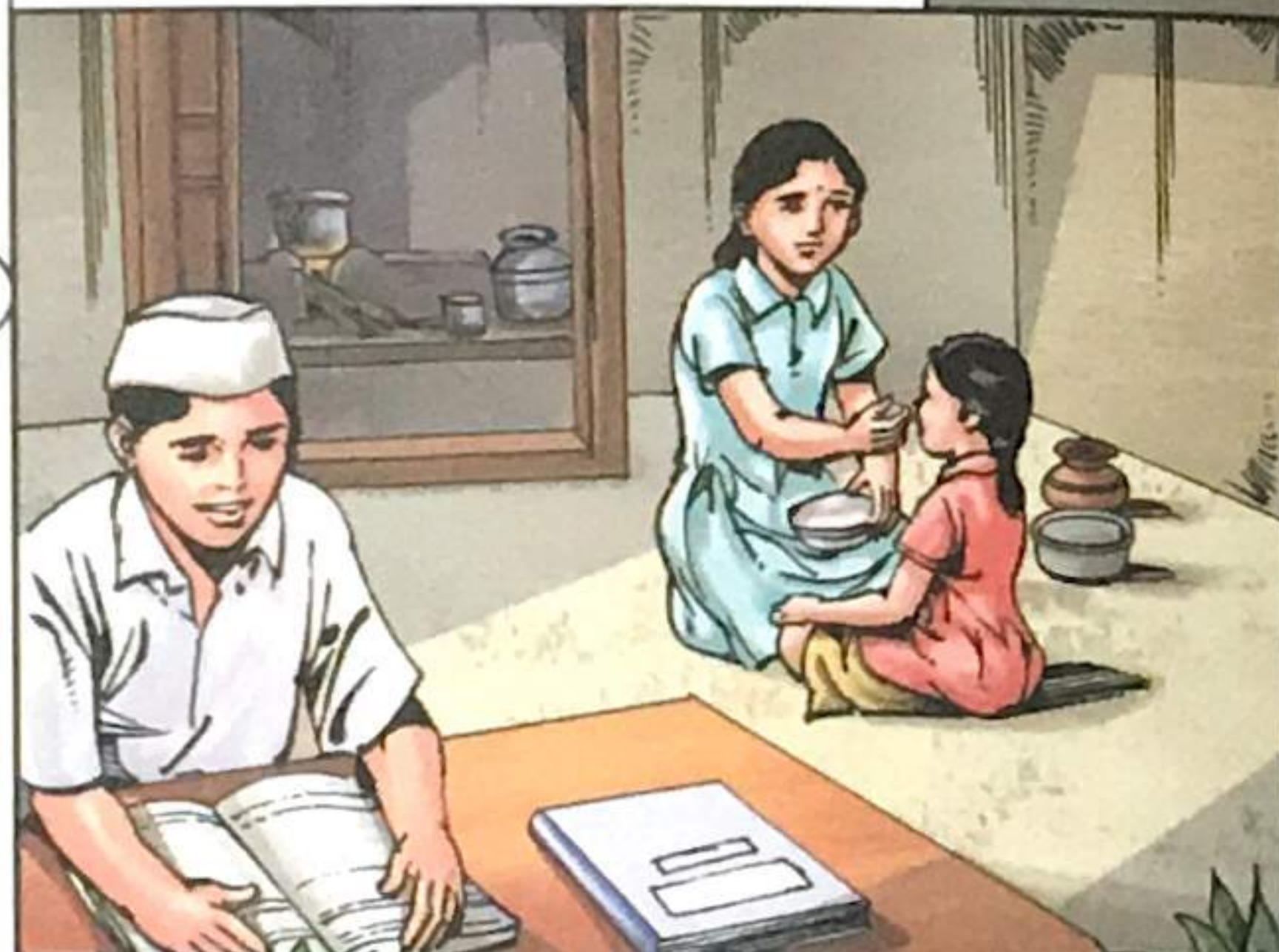


THE HEADMASTER OF THE SCHOOL WAS VERY FOND OF HIM.



STUDY HARD, SON. YOU WILL SHINE ONE DAY.

PREMA WAS A GOOD STUDENT TOO. BUT LOOKING AFTER ANANT AND SAVITA WAS HER TOP PRIORITY.



SOON SAVITA TOO STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL ONE DAY -



AKKA, LOOK, RIPE GUAVAS. CAN YOU PLUCK SOME, PLEASE?

WE'LL BE LATE. THERE'S A PUJA\* AT HOME AND MAMAMMA WANTED US TO GET BACK HOME QUICKLY.



PLEASE, AKKA...

I'M HUNGRY... VERY HUNGRY!

OKAY!



THERE'S A RIPE ONE ON THE NEXT BRANCH.

YOU ARE THE LIMIT!

WHEN THEY REACHED HOME -



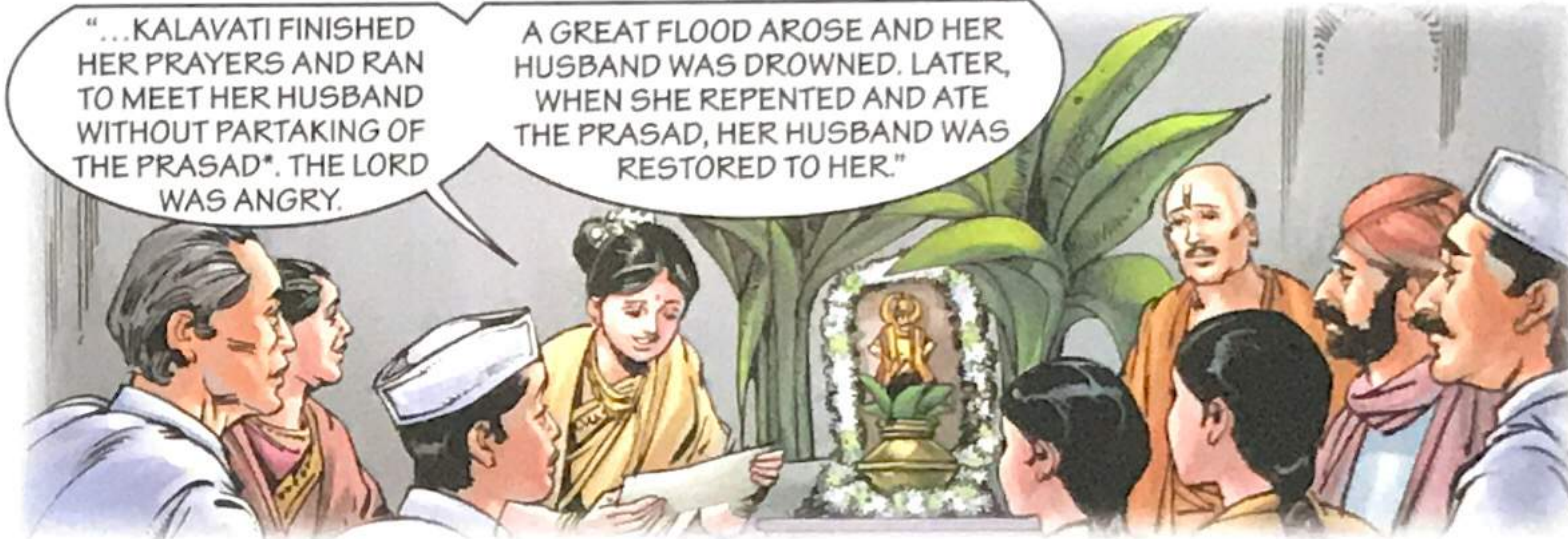
WHERE HAVE YOU THREE BEEN? GO SIT QUIETLY AND LISTEN TO LORD SATYANARAYANA'S STORY.

A STORY! WHAT FUN!

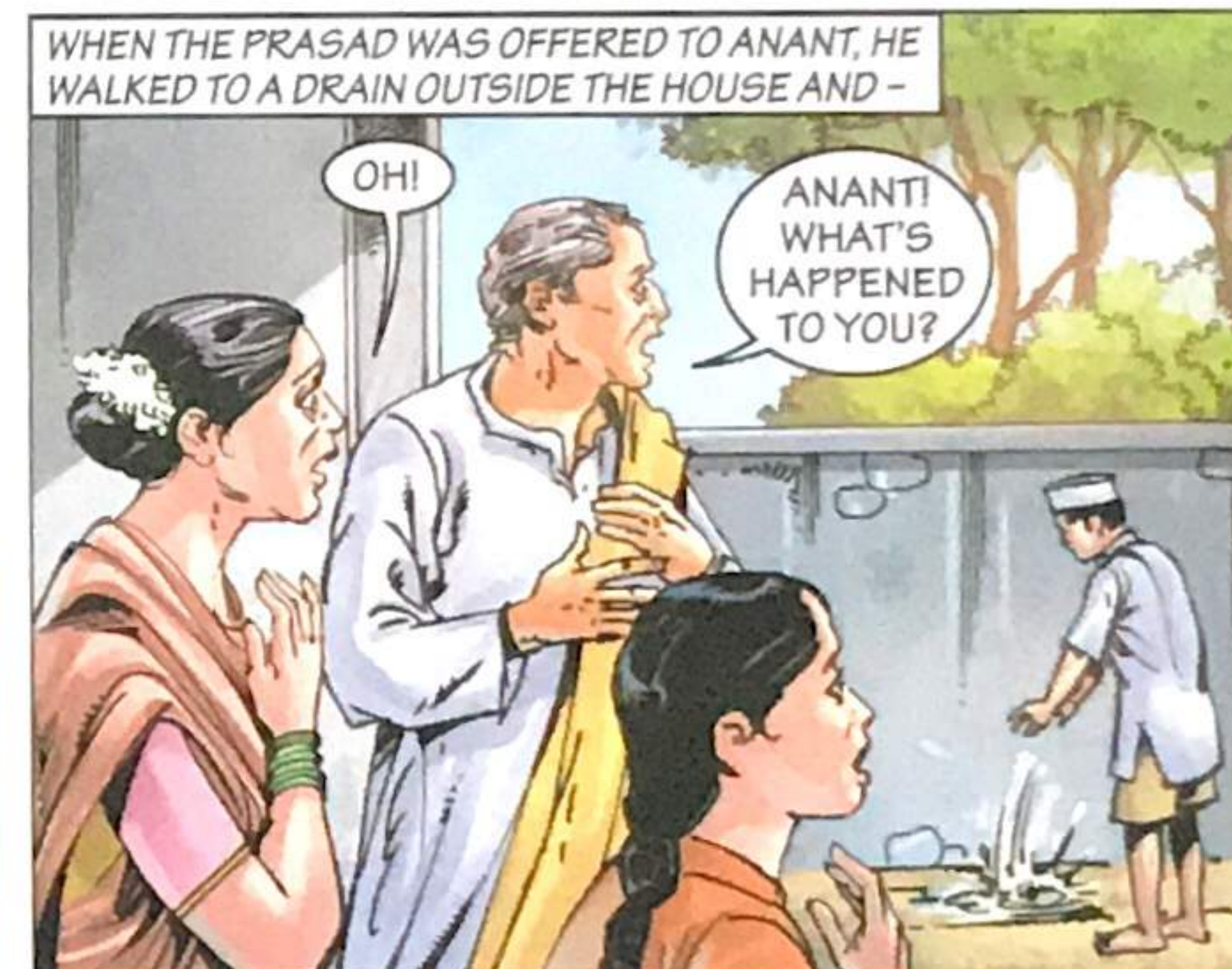
\* SPECIAL PRAYERS

"... KALAVATI FINISHED HER PRAYERS AND RAN TO MEET HER HUSBAND WITHOUT PARTAKING OF THE PRASAD\*. THE LORD WAS ANGRY.

A GREAT FLOOD AROSE AND HER HUSBAND WAS DROWNED. LATER, WHEN SHE REPENTED AND ATE THE PRASAD, HER HUSBAND WAS RESTORED TO HER."

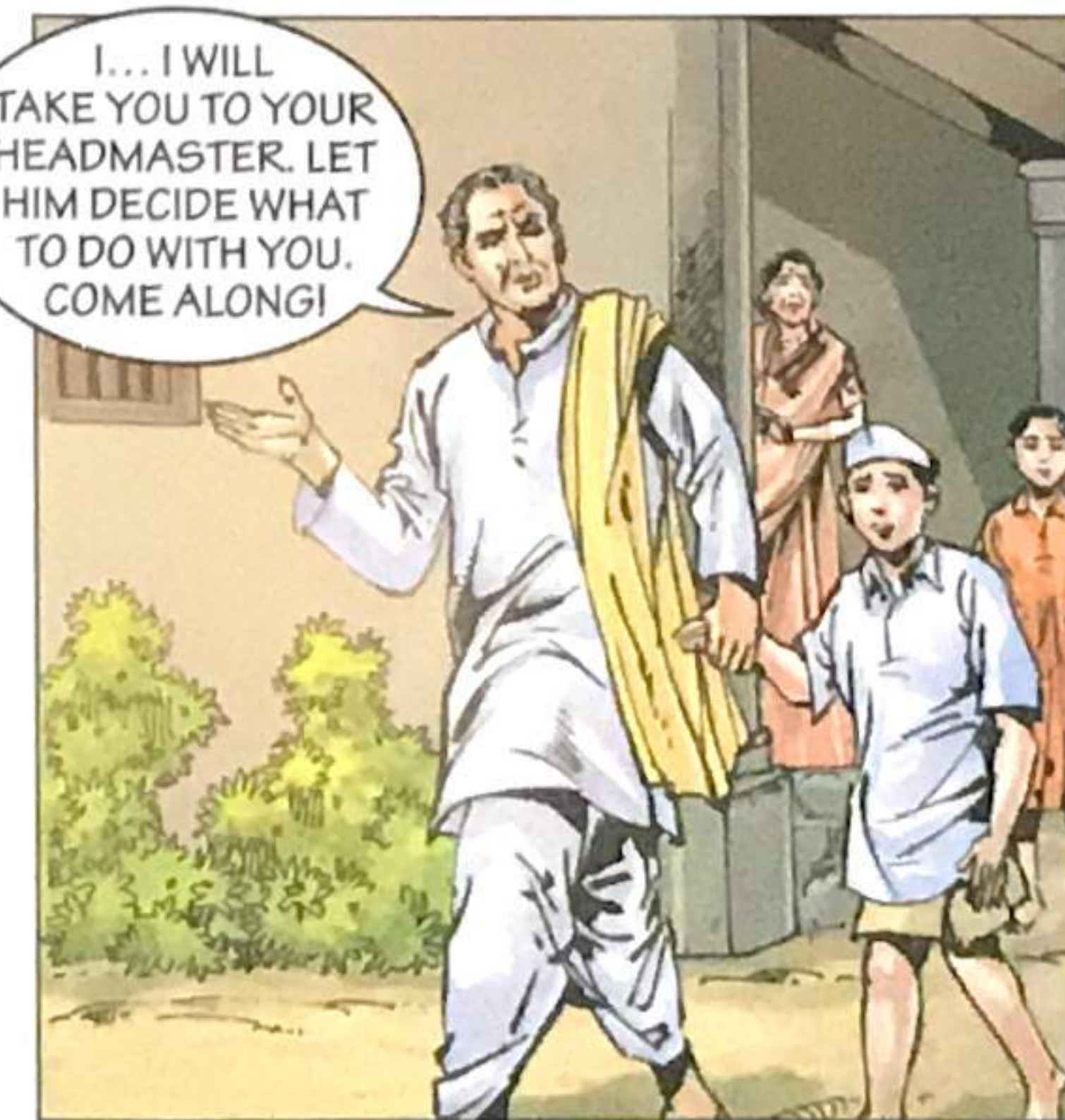


WHY WOULD GOD GET ANGRY FOR SUCH A SMALL THING? AND WHY SHOULD WE WORSHIP SUCH A GOD?



OH!

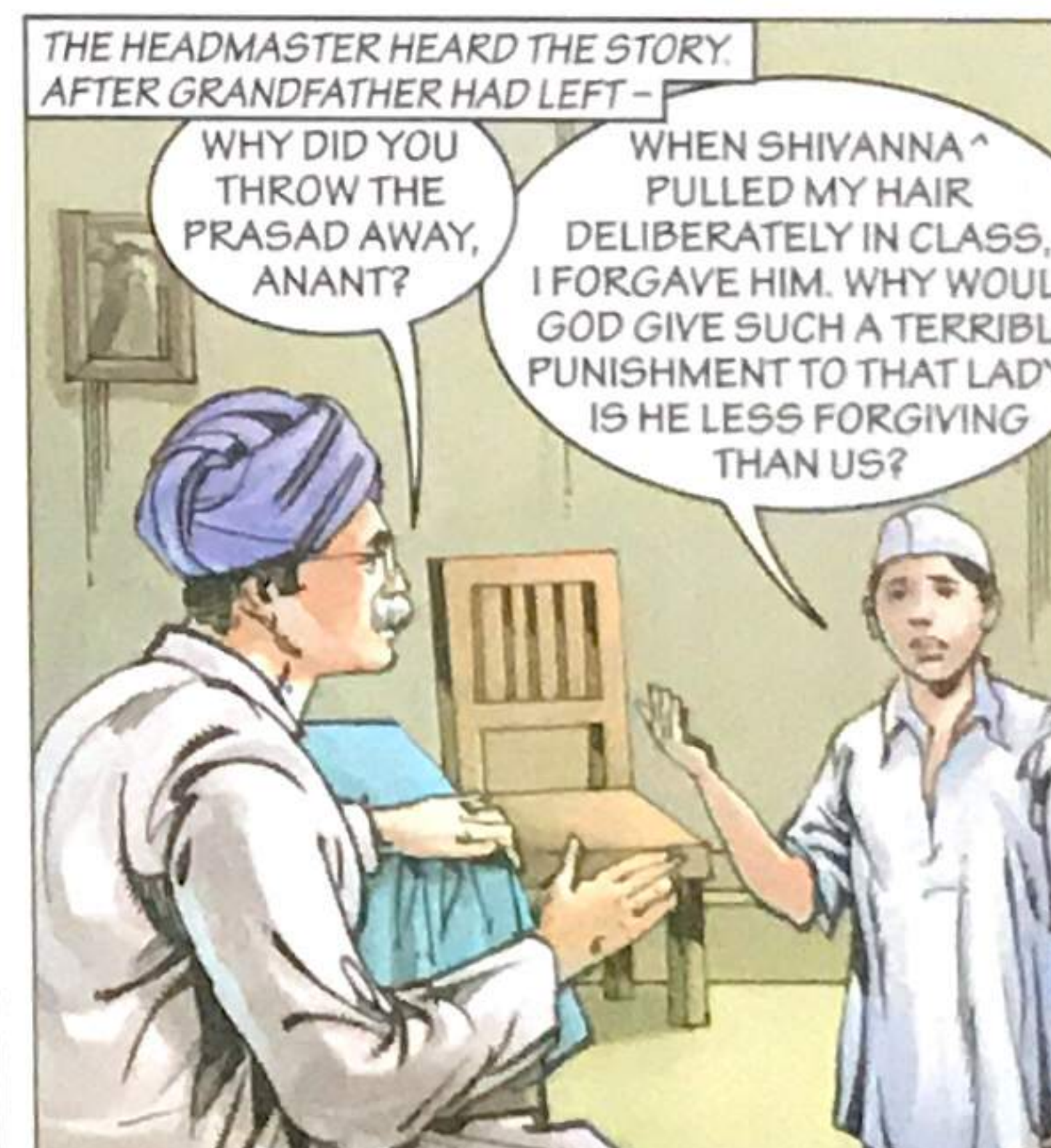
ANANTI! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?



I... I WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR HEADMASTER. LET HIM DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU. COME ALONG!

ANANT'S GRANDFATHER DID NOT WANT TO RAISE HIS HAND ON THE CHILD.

\*FOOD OFFERED TO THE DEITY  
^HIS CLASSMATE



THE HEADMASTER HEARD THE STORY. AFTER GRANDFATHER HAD LEFT -

WHY DID YOU THROW THE PRASAD AWAY, ANANT?

WHEN SHIVANNA ^ PULLED MY HAIR DELIBERATELY IN CLASS, I FORGAVE HIM. WHY WOULD GOD GIVE SUCH A TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT TO THAT LADY? IS HE LESS FORGIVING THAN US?



THE HEADMASTER WAS QUIET FOR A MOMENT. THEN -

OH ANANTI! YOU ARE RIGHT. BUT YOU CANNOT BE DISRESPECTFUL TO YOUR GRANDPARENTS. YOU MUST SAY SORRY TO THEM.

I'LL DO THAT, SIR.

I HEAR YOU ARE READING THE BHAGWAD GITA.

I MISS MY PARENTS A LOT AND READING THE GITA MAKES ME FEEL AT PEACE, SIR.

ANANT ALWAYS HAD A GREAT ADMIRATION FOR HIS TEACHERS.

BESIDES THE HEADMASTER, ANOTHER TEACHER WHO SHOWED AFFECTION TO ANANT WAS DHARAMPAL, WHO COACHED HIM IN HINDI AND URDU.

YOUR HINDI IS VERY GOOD. BUT I WANT IT TO BE EXCELLENT. SHALL WE READ KABIR'S POETRY TODAY?

YES, SIR.

AT THE END OF HIS FIRST LESSON -

I AGREED TO TEACH YOU ON TWO CONDITIONS, ANANT. ONE - YOU WILL NOT PAY ME ANY FEES. TWO - YOU'LL EAT WHATEVER I GIVE YOU.

WHEN ANANT WAS 13 YEARS OLD, HIS GRANDFATHER PASSED AWAY. THE CHILDREN HAD TO MOVE ONCE AGAIN.

YOU THREE WILL NOW STAY WITH YOUR COUSIN IN BOMBAY. I WILL MISS YOU SO MUCH!

WE WILL MISS YOU TOO, MAMAMMA!

PREMA HAD GONE AHEAD. ANANT AND SAVITA WERE TO JOIN HER IN THEIR COUSIN I.M. PAI'S HOUSE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK BOMBAY WILL BE LIKE?

I'VE HEARD IT'S A VERY BIG CITY.

THE CHILDREN SOON SETTLED INTO THEIR COUSIN'S HOUSEHOLD. BUT WHEN THEY WENT FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION -

CAN YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?

N... NO.

IT WAS THE SAME STORY EVERYWHERE.

HOW WILL THEY STUDY IN AN ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL? I AM SORRY. WE CANNOT ADMIT THEM HERE.

IT MADE ANANT FEEL VERY DEJECTED AND UNSURE OF HIMSELF.

FINALLY, THE CHILDREN GOT ADMISSION IN ORIENT HIGH SCHOOL, MAHIM.

I'VE HEARD IT IS VERY GOOD.

YES, THE SCHOOL DOES NOT HAVE MANY FACILITIES BUT IT HAS EXCELLENT TEACHERS.

THE NEXT DAY -

WHO IS THIS FUNNILY DRESSED BOY?

HA HA HA!

HEY, LOOSE SHIRT!

STOP IT!

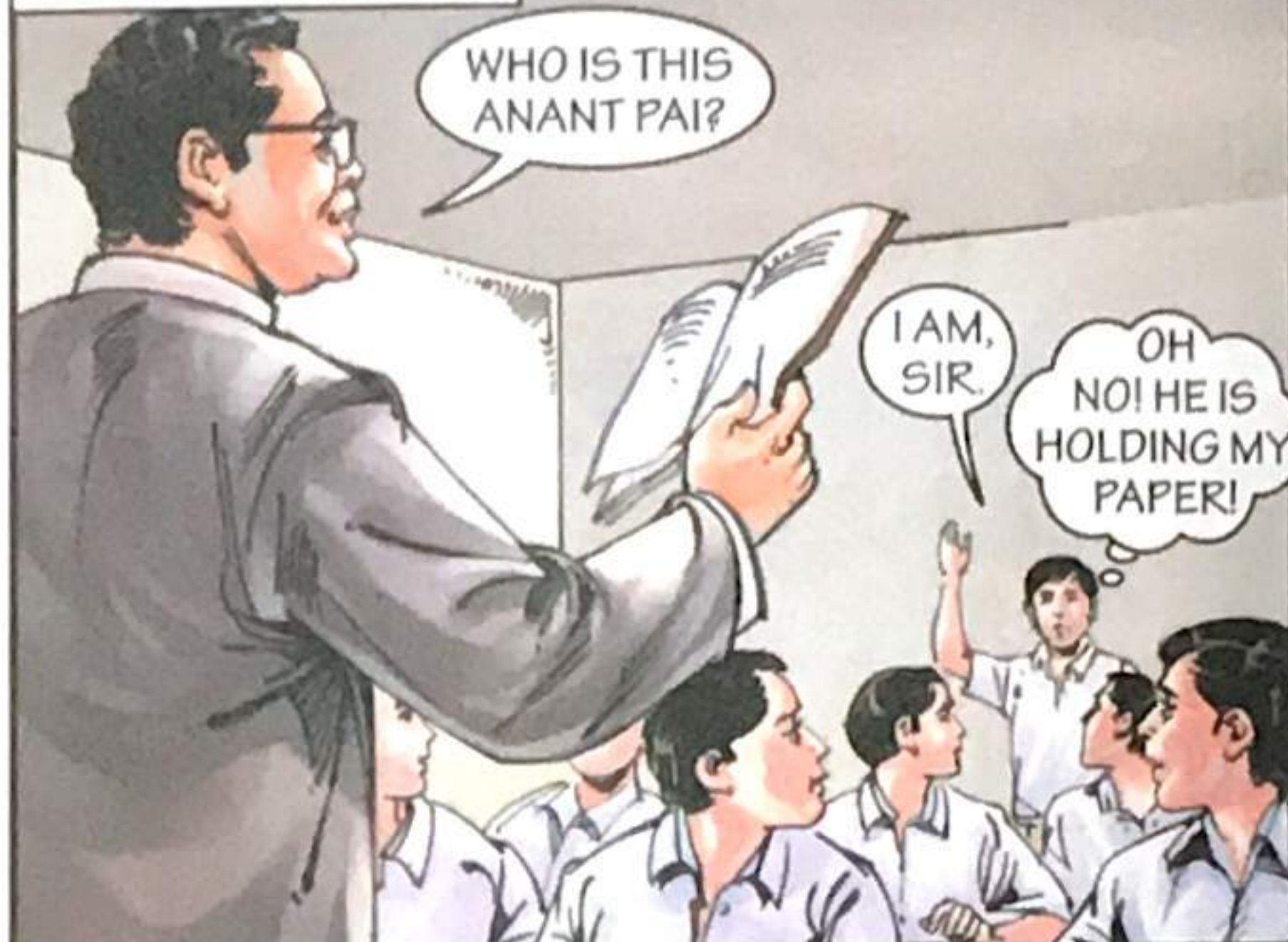
I AM SITTING HERE. YOU CAN SIT AT THE BACK, THERE.



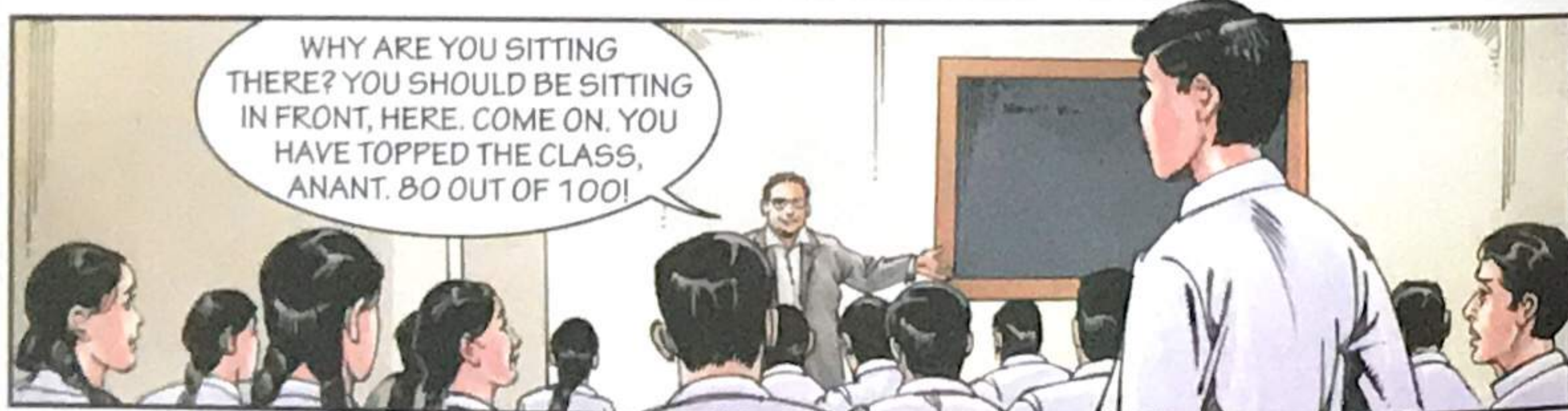
AFTER SCHOOL -



THE FIRST SEMESTER EXAMS TOOK PLACE AND THEN IT WAS TIME FOR THE RESULTS.



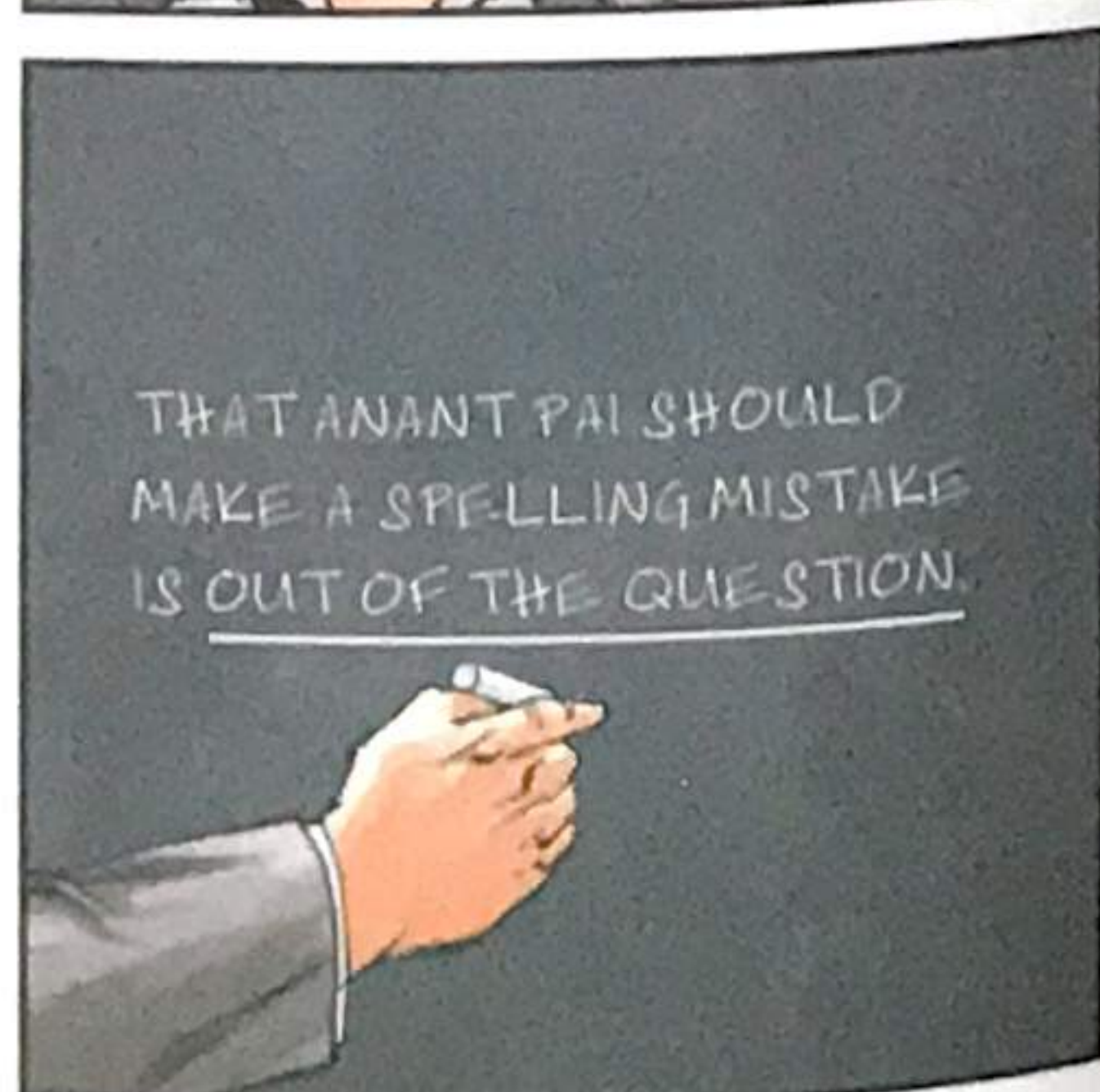
IT WAS P. U. L. DESHPANDE, THE FAMOUS MARATHI PLAYWRIGHT, WHO WAS TEACHING ENGLISH AT ORIENT HIGH SCHOOL THEN.



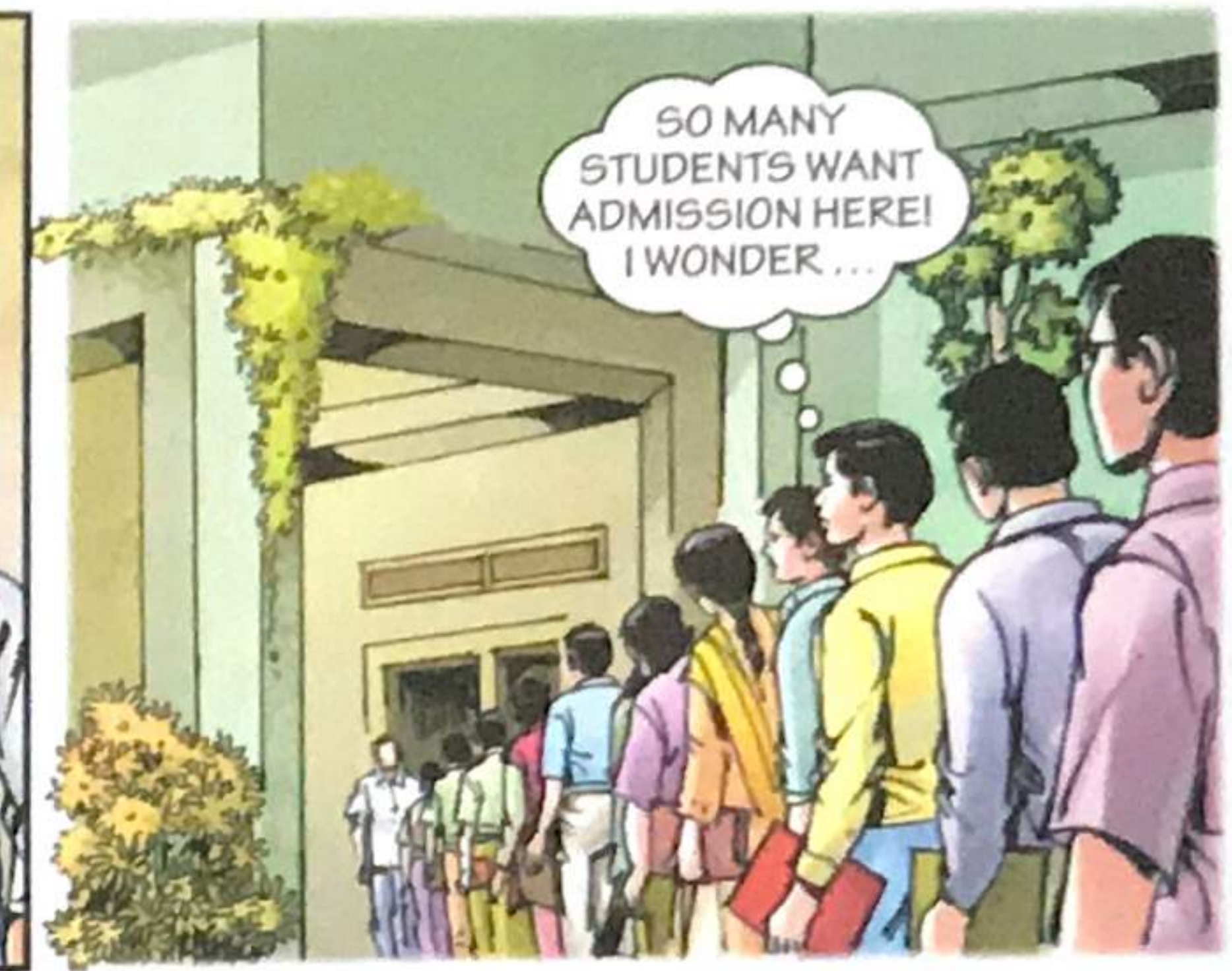
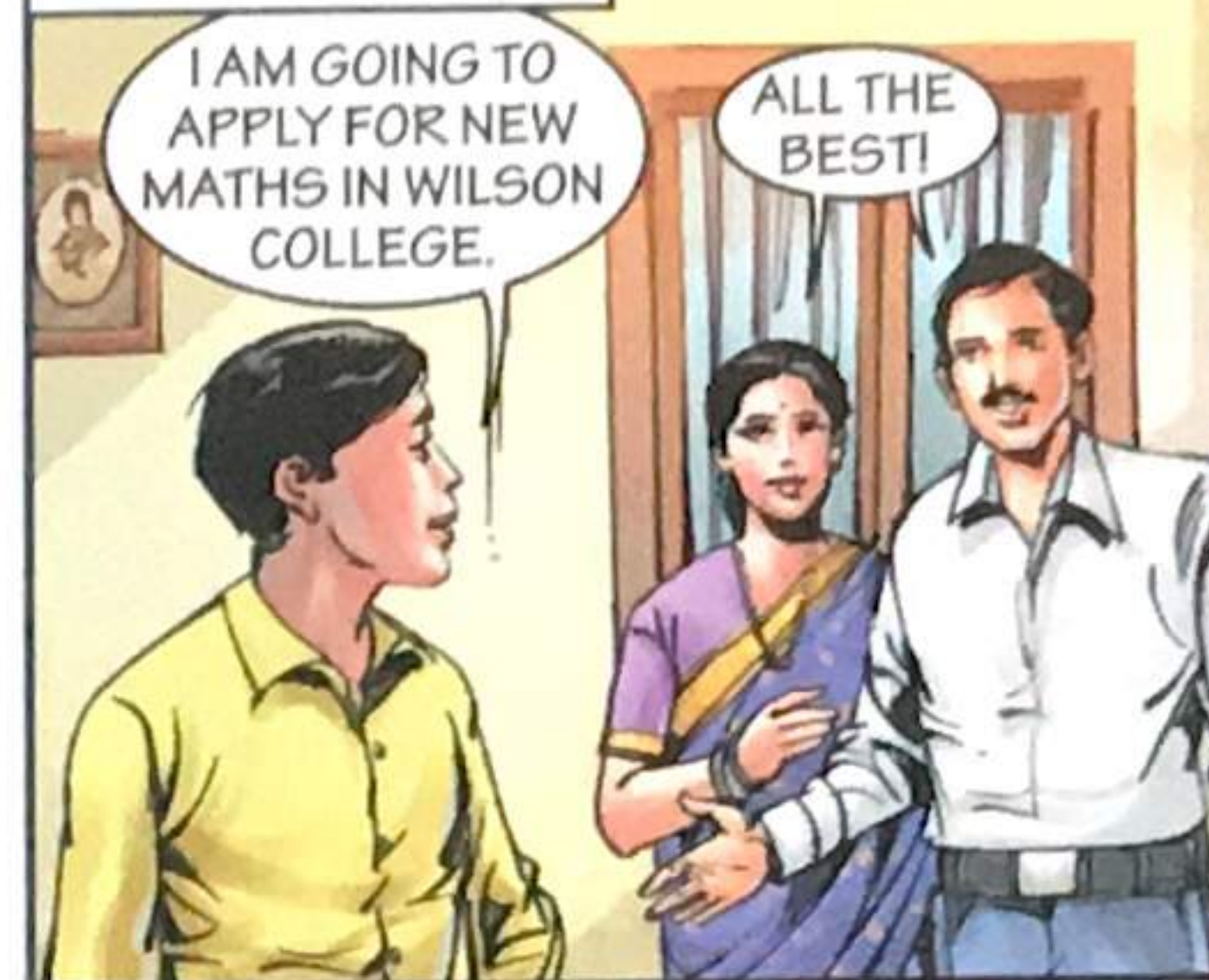
ANANT'S CLASSMATES WERE IMPRESSED.



LATER HE WOULD CREDIT IT TO HIS WONDERFUL TEACHERS.



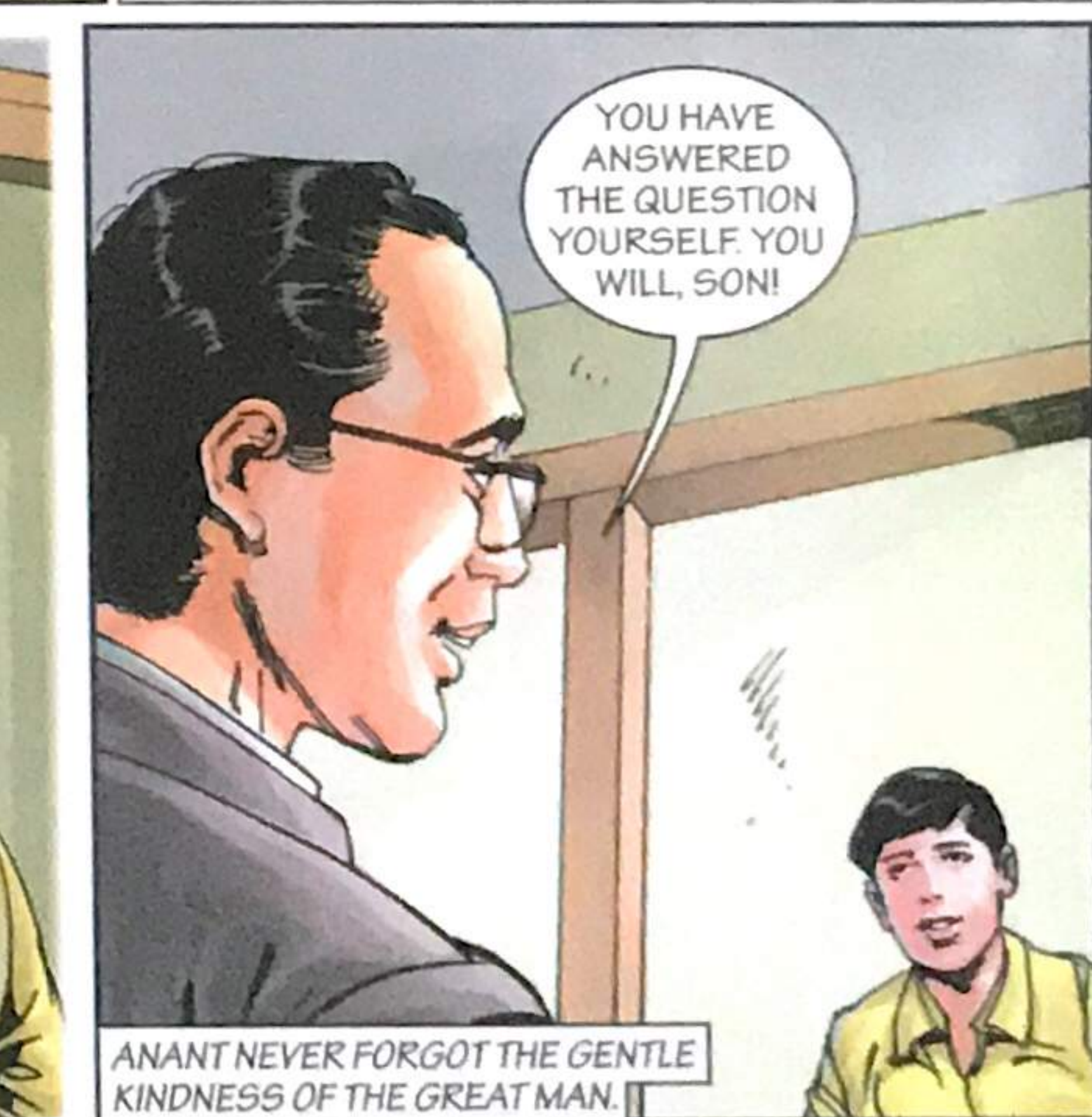
TIME FLEW AND PREMA WAS MARRIED TO A LEADING DOCTOR IN BOMBAY, V. R. PRABHU. MEANWHILE, ANANT SCORED WELL IN HIS MATRICULATION EXAM.



AFTER A COUPLE OF HOURS -



IT WAS DR JOHN TAYLOR, A WORLD RENOWNED PHYSICIST, WHO WAS OFFICIATING AS PRINCIPAL OF WILSON COLLEGE.





ANANT WAS A DILIGENT STUDENT. ONE WET MONSOON MORNING -



ANANT, YOU ARE SOAKING WET! GO HOME AND CHANGE INTO DRY CLOTHES.

I DON'T WANT TO MISS MY CLASS, SIR.



AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO CATCH A COLD. GO HOME, SON!

NO, SIR, PLEASE. I DON'T WANT TO MISS CLASSES.



IN THAT CASE, COME WITH ME.

THEY WENT UP TO THE FIRST FLOOR WHERE THE COLLEGE BELL HUNG AND -



NOW RING THE BELL.



THE COLLEGE IS CLOSED FOR THE DAY. NOW GO HOME.

THROUGH HIS SCHOOL AND COLLEGE YEARS, ANANT WAS LUCKY TO HAVE GREAT TEACHERS GUIDING HIM AND MOULDING HIM INTO A SPIRITED AND THOUGHTFUL YOUNG MAN.

AFTER PASSING OUT OF WILSON COLLEGE, ANANT STUDIED CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AT U.D.C.T.\*.



AS ANANT WALKED HOME -



NAMASTE!

LALITA! YOU LIVE IN THE SAME AREA AS ME?

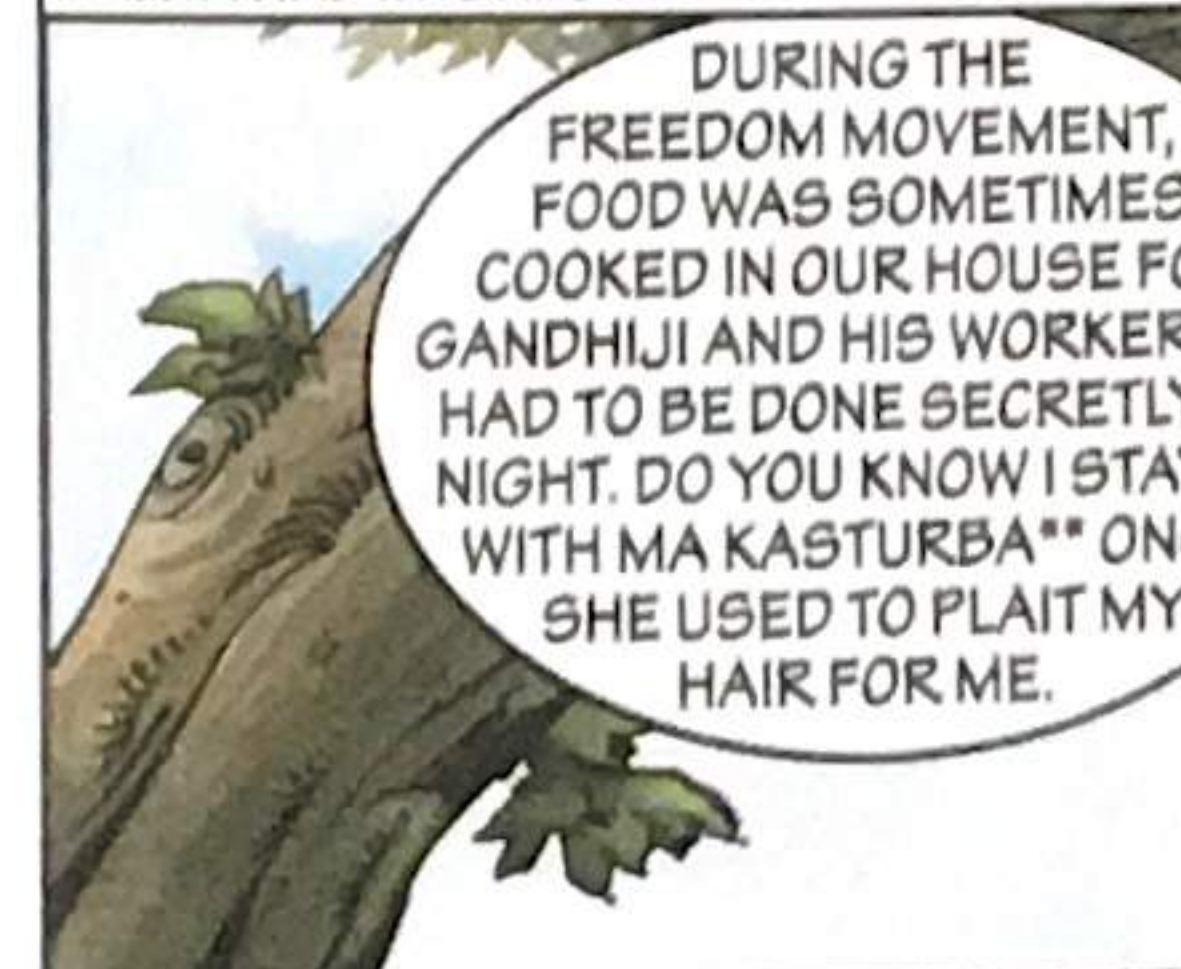
ARE YOU FROM BOMBAY OR SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE?

I AM FROM SINDH. MY FATHER IS A BUSINESSMAN. HIS NAME IS JETHANAND GOKLANI.

I'VE HEARD OF YOUR FATHER, PANDIT NEHRU^ VISITED YOUR HOUSE, DIDN'T HE?

YES, THERE WAS AN EARTHQUAKE IN KUTCH, AND NEHRUJI CAME TO VISIT OUR VILLAGE. THAT IS WHEN HE CAME TO OUR HOUSE.

LALITA HAD INTERESTING STORIES TO TELL.



DURING THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT, FOOD WAS SOMETIMES COOKED IN OUR HOUSE FOR GANDHIJI AND HIS WORKERS. IT HAD TO BE DONE SECRETLY AT NIGHT. DO YOU KNOW I STAYED WITH MA KASTURBA\*\* ONCE. SHE USED TO PLAIT MY HAIR FOR ME.



I ENVY YOU!

\*UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY, NOW ICT.  
\*\* MAHATMA GANDHI'S WIFE

^THEN PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

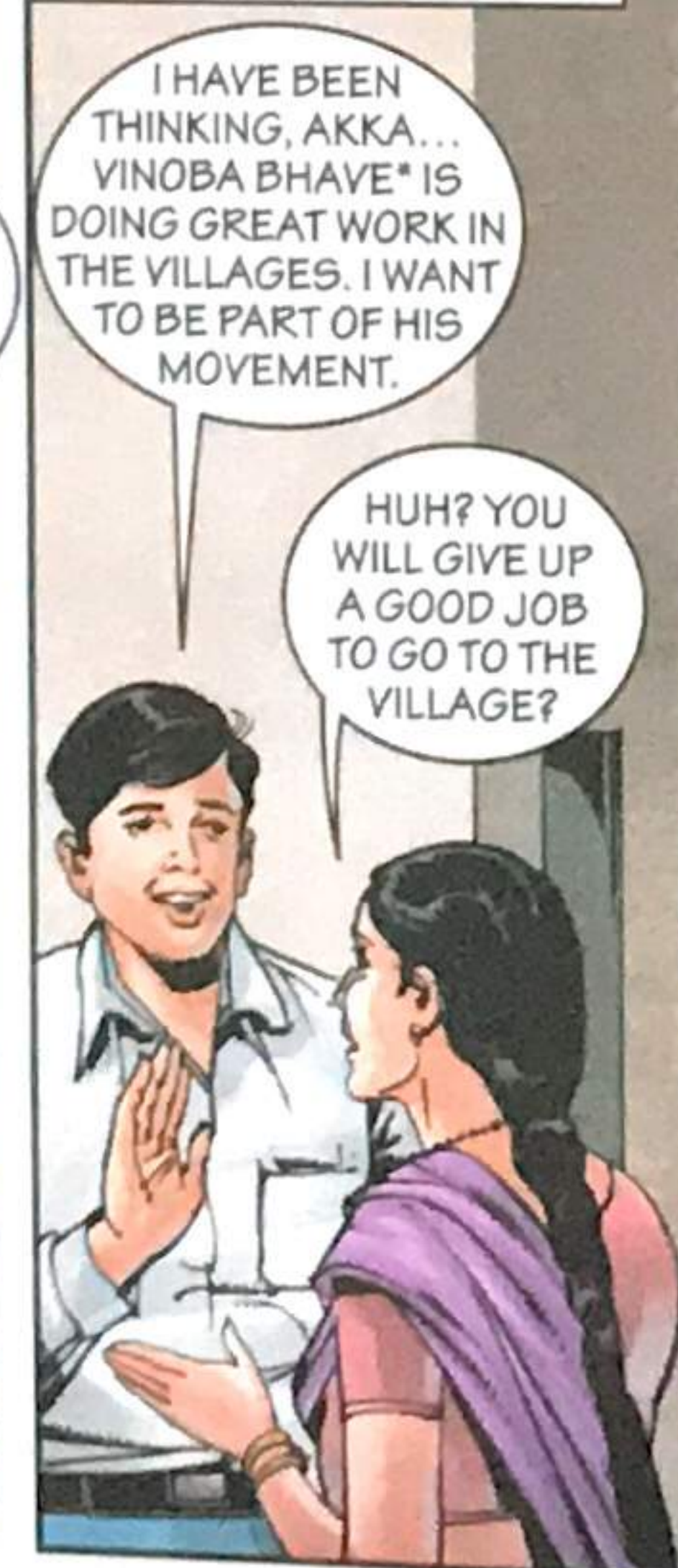




ANANT WAS SURE HE WOULD MARRY LALITA EVEN IF HE HAD TO WAIT FIVE YEARS.



BUT THE YOUNG IDEALIST HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO LEAVE HIS JOB AS AN ENGINEER.



\*A SOCIAL WORKER AND GANDHIAN



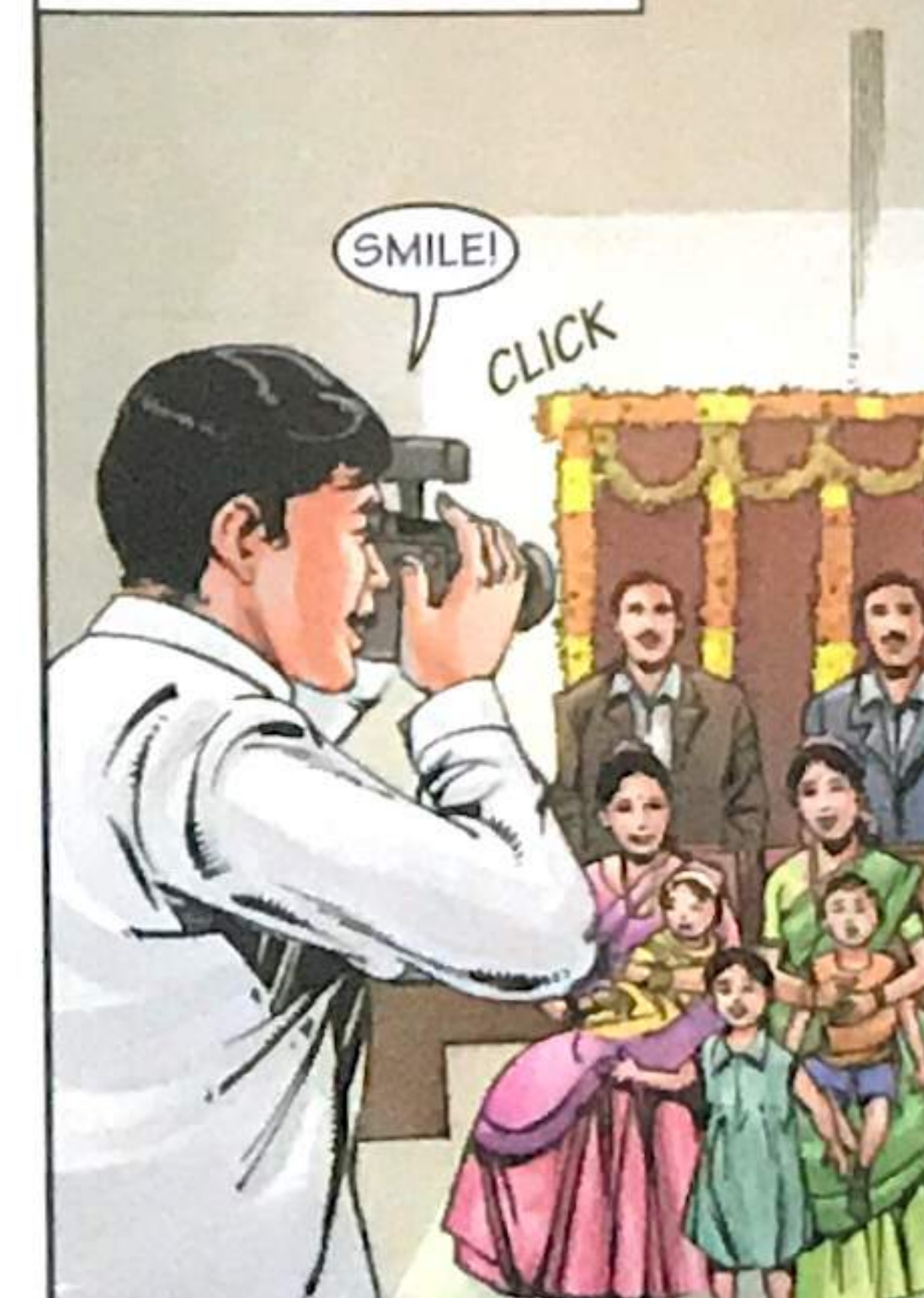
ANANT SPENT TIME WORKING WITH VINOBA BHAVE. HE ALSO WROTE A NOVEL, 'BEECH KI KADI'. SOON HE WAS BACK IN BOMBAY WITH YET ANOTHER IDEA.



ANANT WAS CONFIDENT AND 'MANAV' WAS LAUNCHED. HE LEARNT THE ROPES OF CREATING AND PUBLISHING A MAGAZINE.



SAVITA WAS ALSO MARRIED.



ANANT WAS VERY POPULAR WITH HIS NIECES AND NEPHEWS.





MANAV RAN FOR A FEW YEARS. BUT -

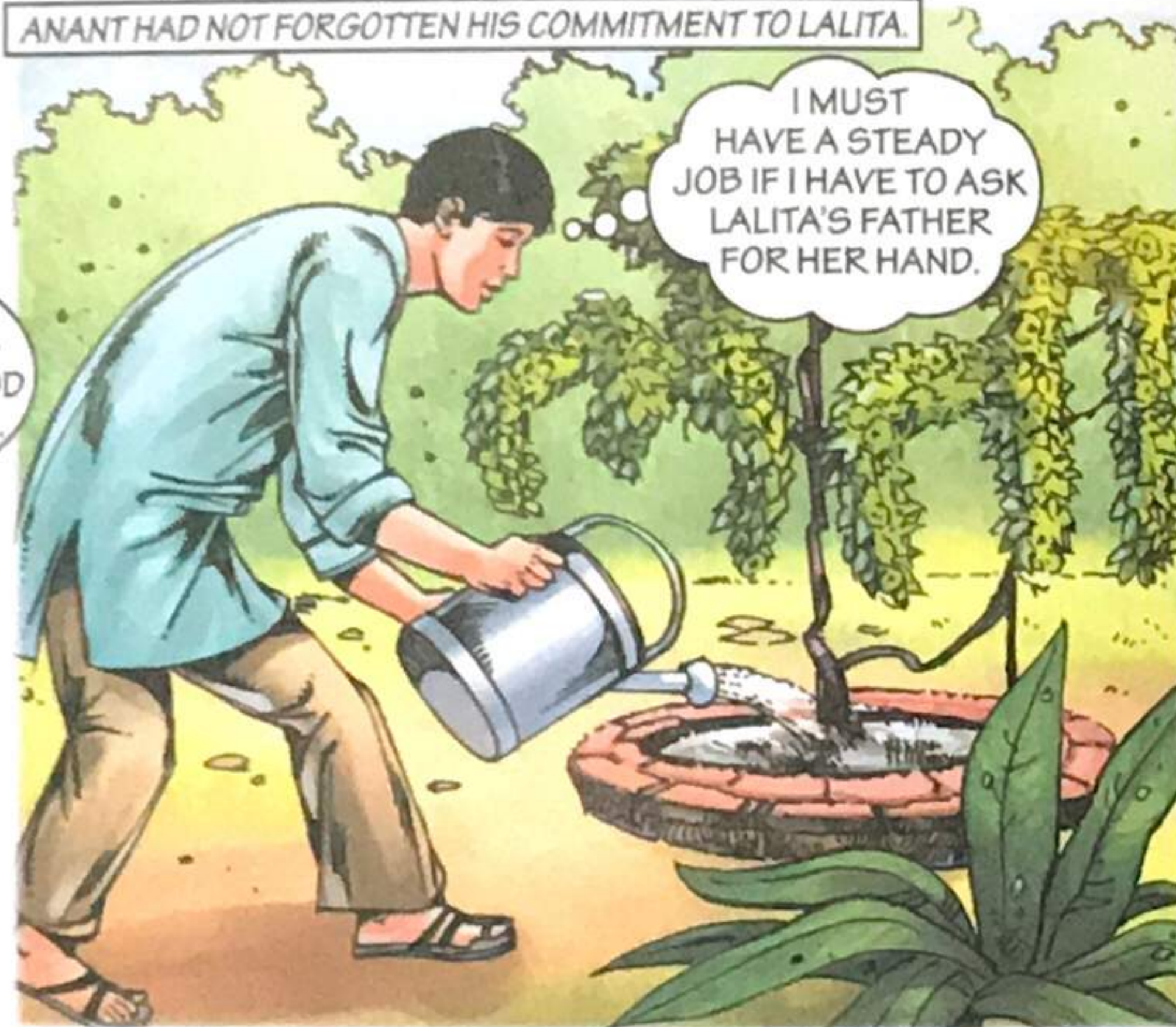
I WILL HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN MANAV. BUILDING UP SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL TAKE TIME AND I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO CONTINUE.

A PITY, BABU. IT IS SUCH A GOOD MAGAZINE.



ANANT HAD NOT FORGOTTEN HIS COMMITMENT TO LALITA.

I MUST HAVE A STEADY JOB IF I HAVE TO ASK LALITA'S FATHER FOR HER HAND.



HE TOOK UP A JOB WITH A BOOK COMPANY, MARKETING BOOKS TO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.



HE THEN WENT TO MEET LALITA'S FATHER.

IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY FOR ME TO EXPLAIN THIS TO MY COMMUNITY. BUT YOU ARE A PERSISTENT YOUNG MAN. GO AHEAD, YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS.



ANANT AND LALITA WERE MARRIED ON 3RD JULY, 1960. THE NEXT DAY -

PACK YOUR BAGS. WE'RE GOING ON A TOUR OF INDIA. I AM GOING TO WORK AND I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME.



I'LL HELP YOU IN YOUR WORK, ANU.

LALITA WAS TO BE ANANT'S GREATEST SUPPORT RIGHT THROUGH HIS LIFE.

AFTER SOME MONTHS, ANANT GOT A JOB IN THE TIMES OF INDIA, BOOKS DIVISION. ONE DAY -

ANANT, THE MANAGEMENT WANTS TO REPRINT AMERICAN COMICS. I WANT YOU TO DO A MARKET SURVEY.



MR SHUKLA, COMICS ARE A GREAT IDEA. BUT WHY NOT COMICS BASED ON OUR MYTHOLOGY AND HISTORY?

THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT. LET'S FIRST LAUNCH THE FOREIGN COMICS.



INDRAJAL COMICS WAS LAUNCHED. PHANTOM AND MANDRAKE CAME TO INDIA. THEY WERE INSTANT SUCCESSSES.

I THINK WE COULD TRY YOUR IDEA OF HAVING SOME INDIAN COMIC STRIPS.

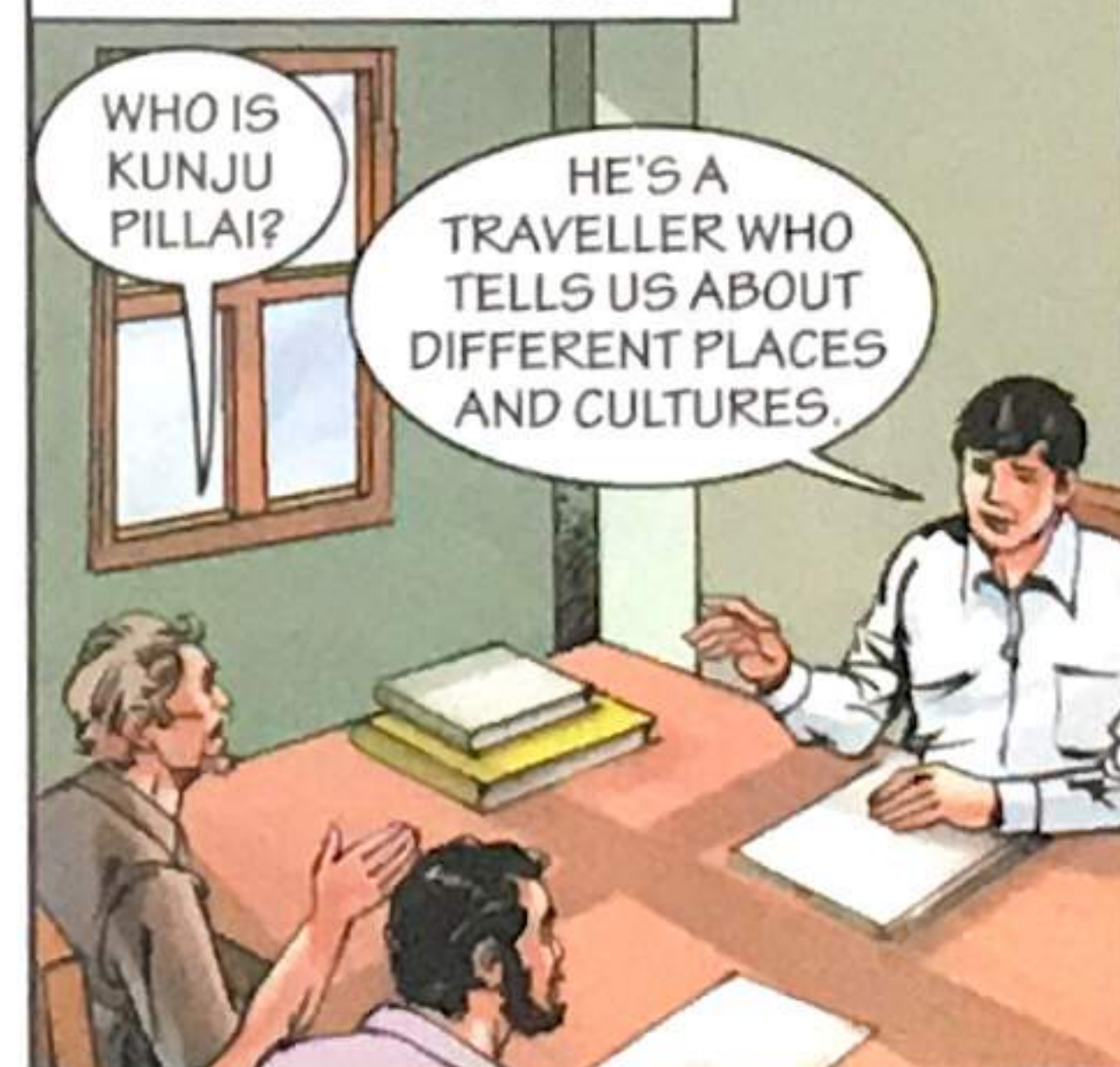
GREAT, SIR!



KUNJU PILLAI, GURU'S CLUB AND OTHER COMIC STRIPS CAME TO LIFE.

WHO IS KUNJU PILLAI?

HE'S A TRAVELLER WHO TELLS US ABOUT DIFFERENT PLACES AND CULTURES.



ANANT WAS FULL OF IDEAS AND HE LOVED DISCUSSING THEM.

LALITA, I READ ABOUT AN ADMIRAL OF THE ZAMORIN NAVY, KUNHALI MARIKKA, WHO CHASED THE PORTUGUESE OFF THE MALABAR COAST.

IT SHOULD MAKE A GREAT STORY!



THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES ABOUT INDIA. WE MUST TELL THEM OR WE MAY LOSE THEM.

YOU'RE RIGHT, ANU.





A FEW YEARS LATER, ANANT AND LALITA WERE IN DELHI ON WORK. WITH THEM WAS LALITA'S FATHER.

WE'RE IN KAROL BAGH. THE SHOP I HAVE TO GO TO IS SOMEWHERE AROUND.

LOOK, A TV SHOP. LET'S HAVE A LOOK.

A QUIZ CONTEST! THEY ARE FUN!

GROUP A - YOUR QUESTION: ACCORDING TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY, WHO IS THE RULER OF THE OCEANS? YOUR OPTIONS ARE, ZEUS, HADES, POSEIDON.

POSEIDON.

CORRECT ANSWER! THE NEXT QUESTION IS...

...ACCORDING TO INDIAN MYTHOLOGY, WHO WAS RAMA'S MOTHER? YOUR OPTIONS ARE, KAIKEYI, KUNTI, KAUSALYA.

KAIKEYI... UM, NO... KUNTI?

WRONG ANSWER. THE CORRECT ANSWER IS KAUSALYA.

THAT WAS SUCH AN EASY QUESTION. THESE YOUNGSTERS KNOW ALL ABOUT GREEK MYTHOLOGY BUT THEY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT OUR OWN HERITAGE!

A FEW MONTHS LATER AT A FAMILY GET-TOGETHER -

HOW ARE MY FAVOURITE NEPHEWS AND NIECES?

WE'RE FINE, MAMA\*. LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE MADE.

AHI THE ANNUAL FAMILY MAGAZINE. WHO WORKED ON IT?

ALL OF US DID. I WROTE A STORY ABOUT A BOY CALLED ROBERT. HE LIVES IN WARRINGTON BUT DREAMS OF GOING TO LONDON.

AND I WROTE THE POEM, 'DAFFODILS'.

LONDON, ROBERT, DAFFODILS! OUR CHILDREN ARE SO EXPOSED TO BOOKS AND IDEAS FROM THE WEST, THEY ARE EVEN FORGETTING TO THINK LIKE INDIANS!

THE THOUGHT STAYED WITH HIM. SOON -

I'VE DECIDED TO RESIGN FROM THE TIMES. I WANT TO TELL INDIAN STORIES TO OUR CHILDREN. I WANT TO MAKE AN INDIAN COMIC.

GOOD IDEA, BUT IT WILL BE A LOT OF WORK. YOU'LL NEED PEOPLE AND MONEY.

AND ALSO A PUBLISHER! MOST OF THEM WILL NOT EXPERIMENT WITH A NEW IDEA. BUT SOMETHING WILL WORK OUT.

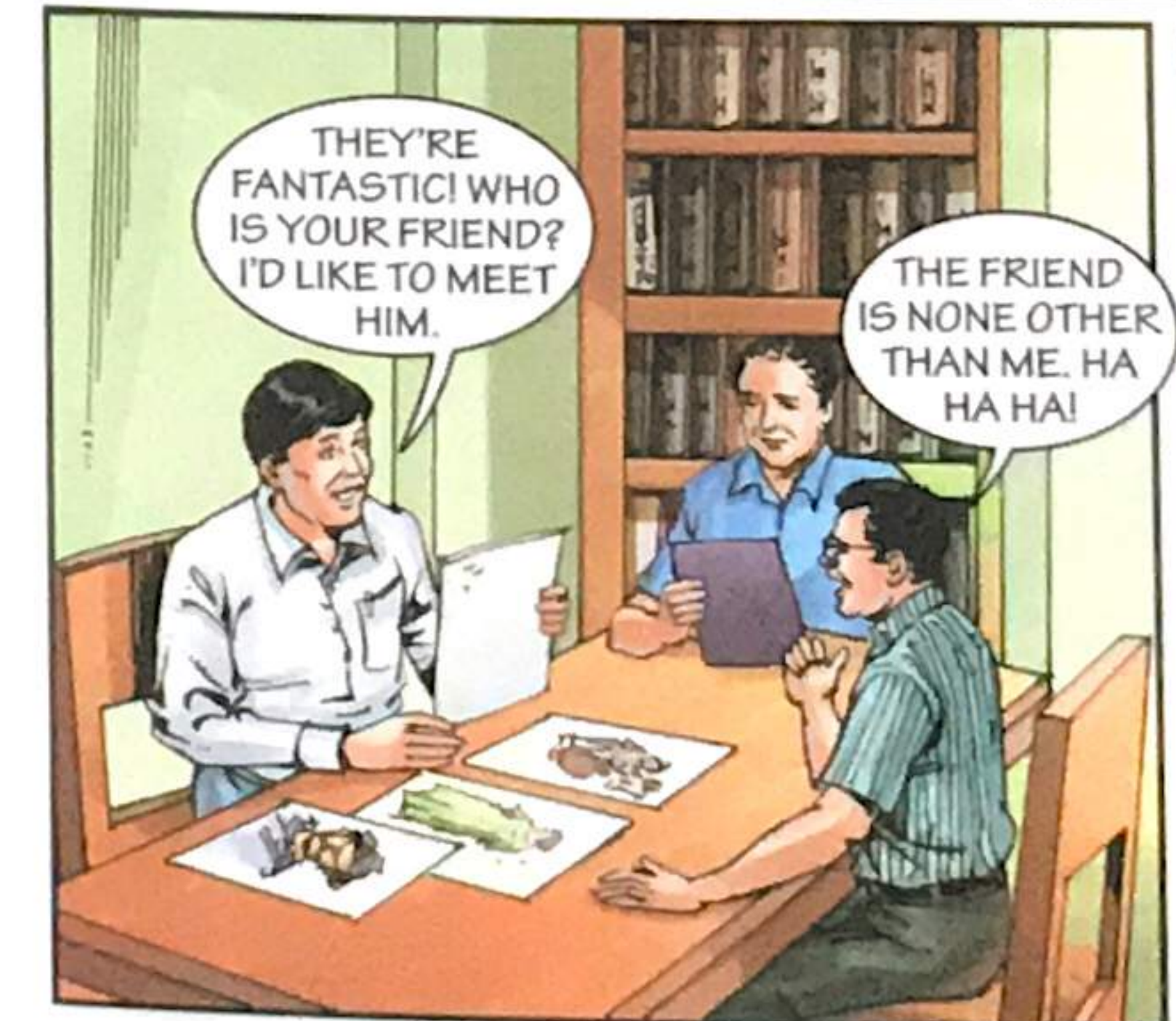


ANANT TOOK HIS IDEA TO G.L. AND H.G. MIRCHANDANI OF INDIA BOOK HOUSE\*.



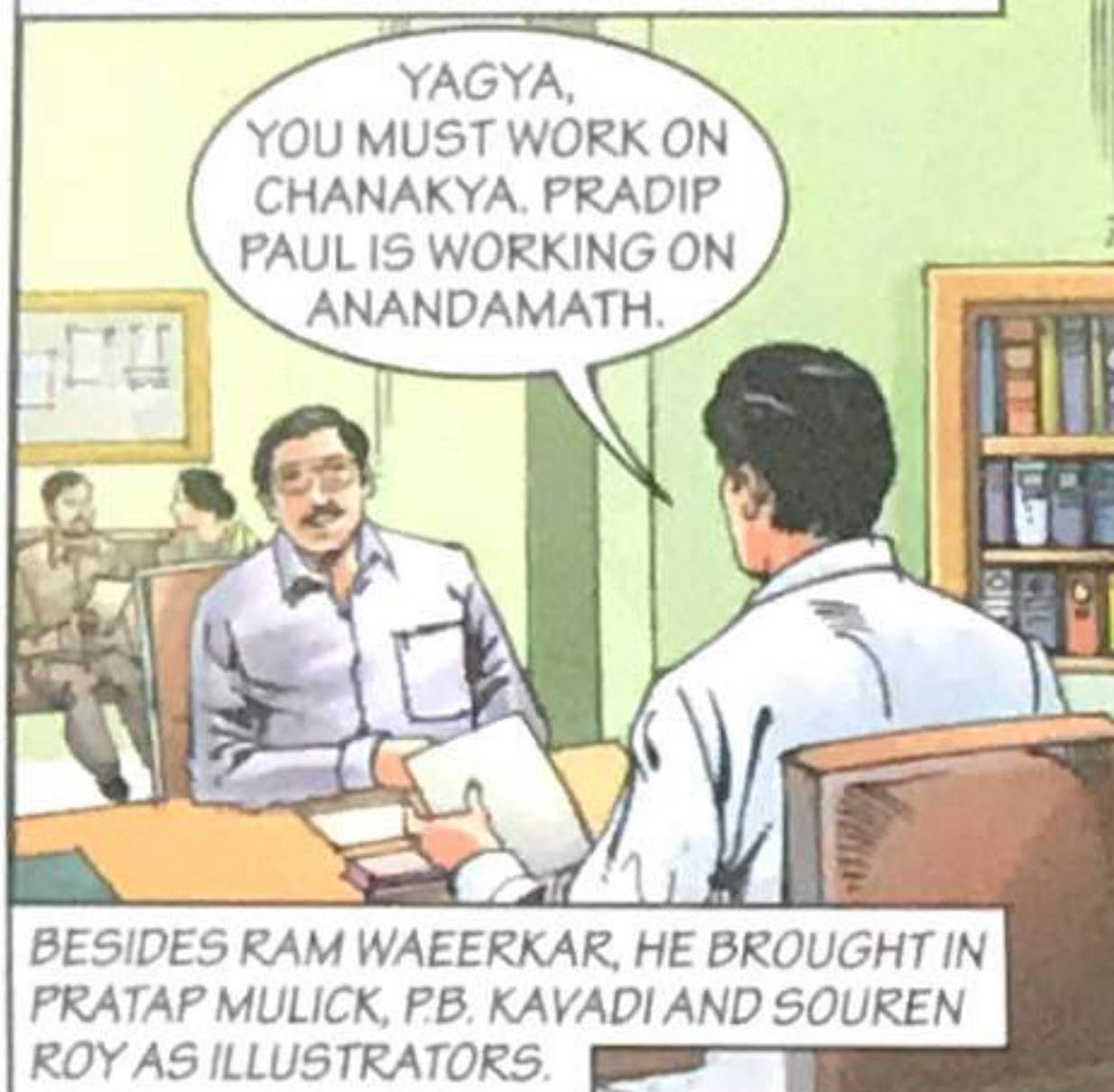
\* PUBLISHERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINES. STARTED IN 1952.

^ AN ANCIENT INDIAN LANGUAGE

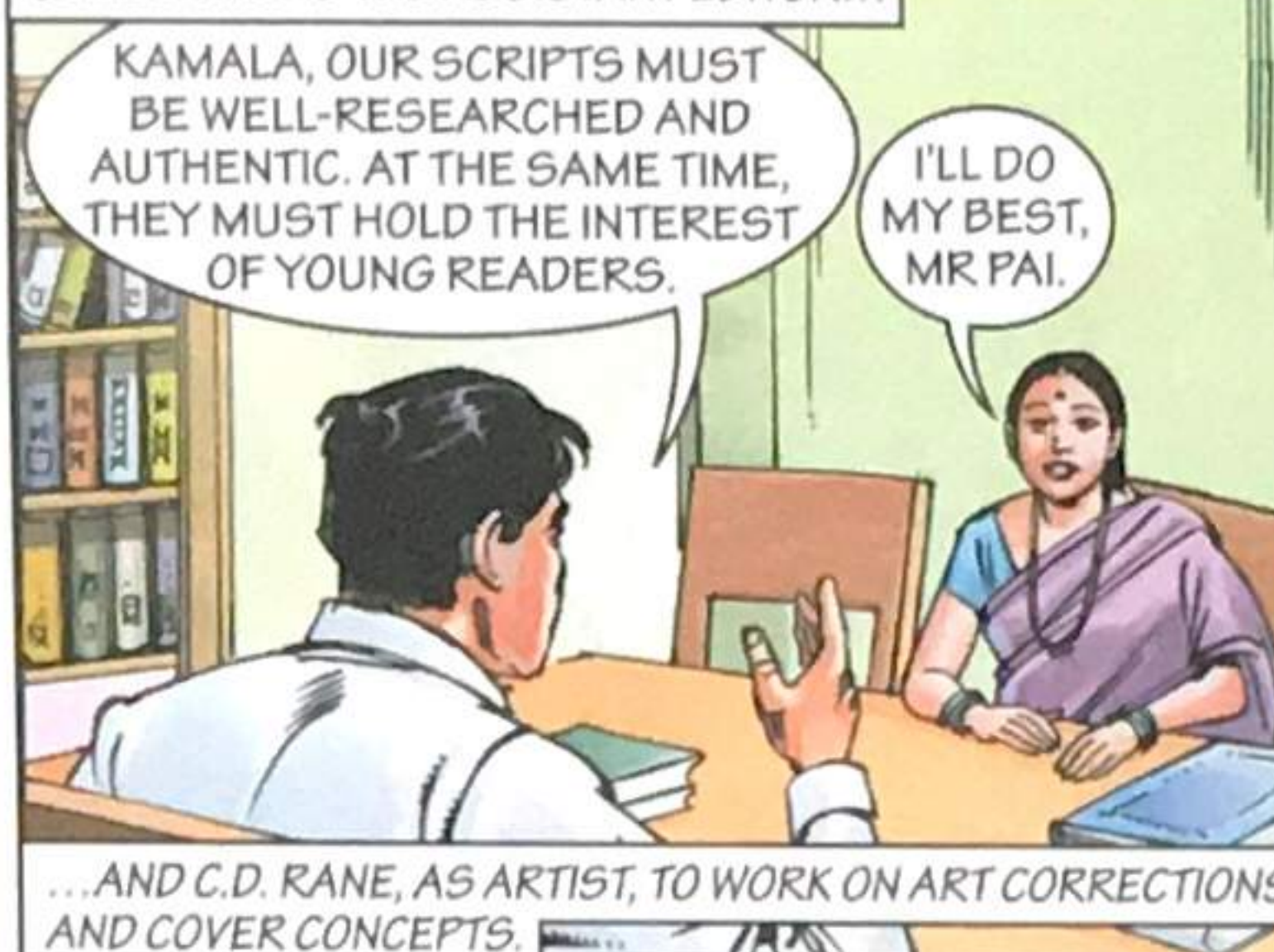




ANANT PAI GATHERED A SELECT BAND OF YOUNG WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS AROUND HIM.



AS MORE SCRIPTS AND ARTWORKS ARRIVED, PAI FELT THE NEED FOR FULL-TIME ASSISTANCE. KAMALA CHANDRAKANT JOINED HIM AS THE ASSISTANT EDITOR...



FINALLY, THE ARTWORKS OF KRISHNA, COMPLETE WITH TEXT AND COLOUR GUIDE\*, WERE SENT FOR PRINTING.



LALITA, WHILE SHE SHARED HER HUSBAND'S DREAM, WAS PRACTICAL TOO.



WE WILL START OUR OWN COMPANY TO PRODUCE ADVENTURE COMICS FOR NEWSPAPERS.



AND SO, RANGAREKHA FEATURES LIMITED WAS BORN. IT WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST INDIAN COMPANIES TO PRODUCE AND SUPPLY INDIAN COMICS TO NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS IN THE COUNTRY.



\* THE COMICS WERE COLOURED MANUALLY, WITH A PALETTE OF 26 COLOURS.

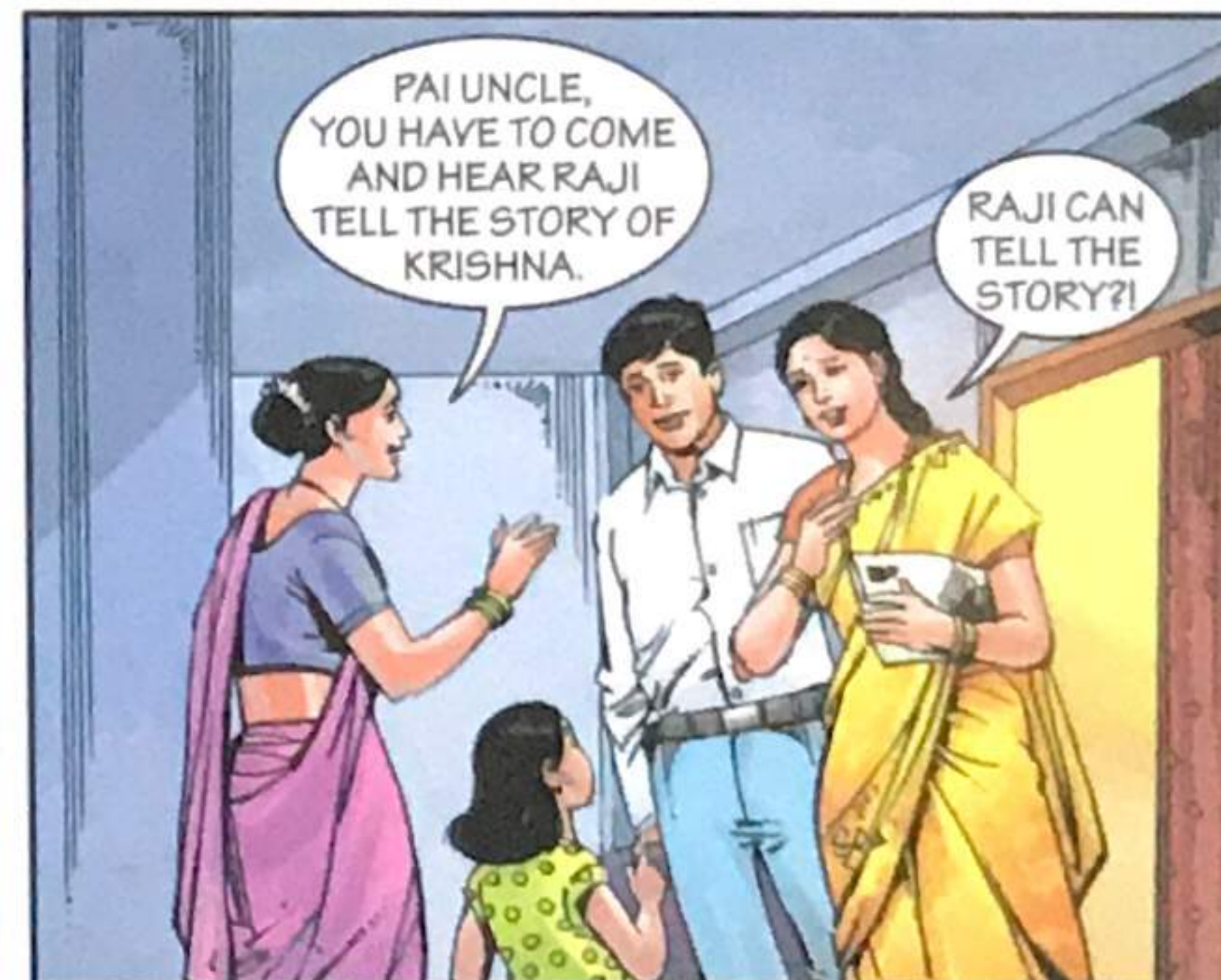
THE FIRST AMAR CHITRA KATHA, KRISHNA\*, ROLLED OUT OF THE PRESS IN FEBRUARY 1970.



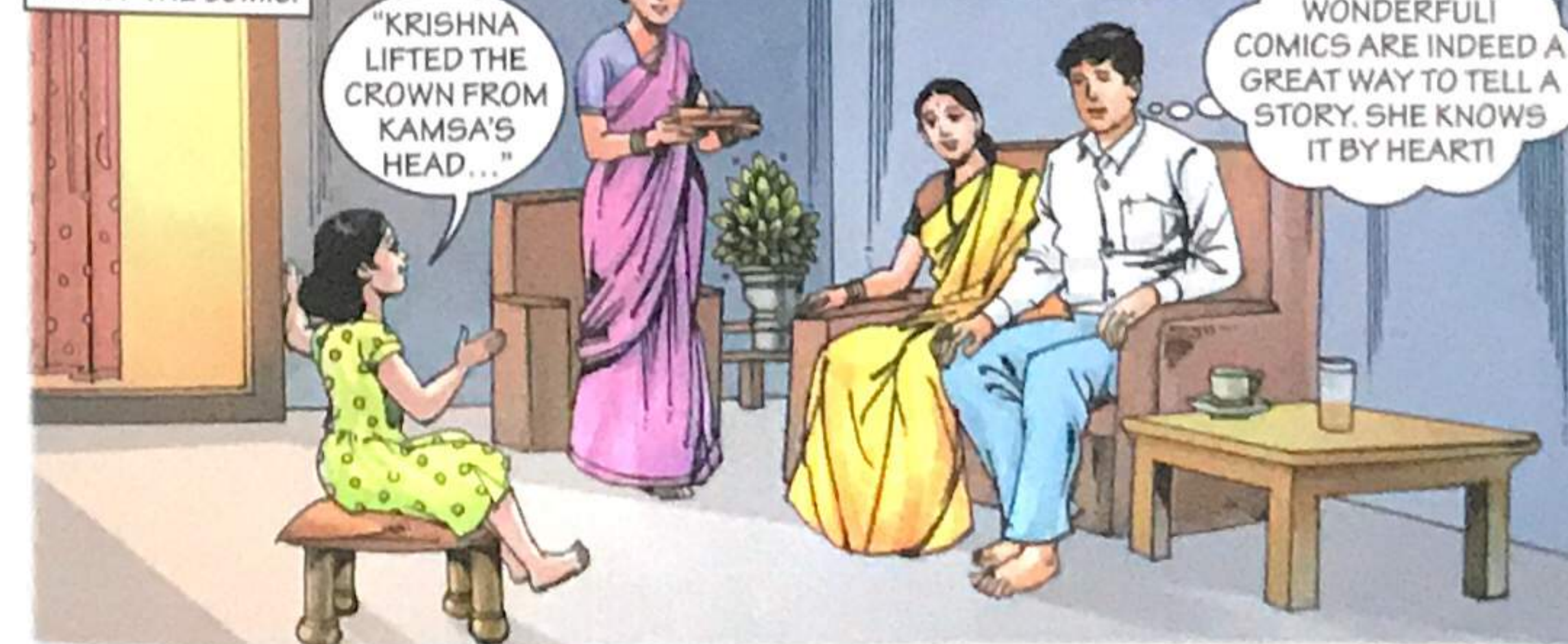
THAT EVENING -



RAJI ENJOYED THE COMIC SO MUCH SHE MADE HER MOTHER READ IT TO HER SEVERAL TIMES EVERY DAY. ONE DAY -

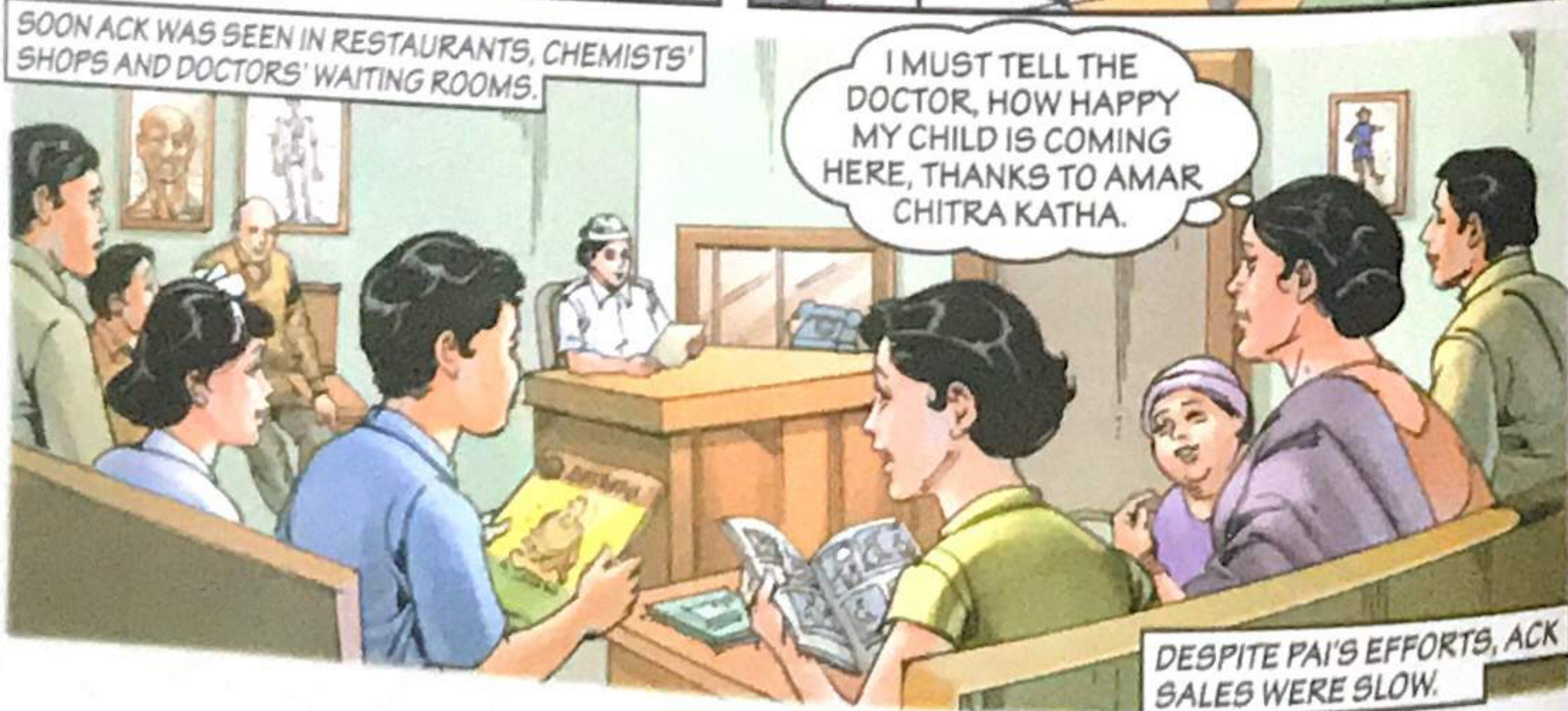
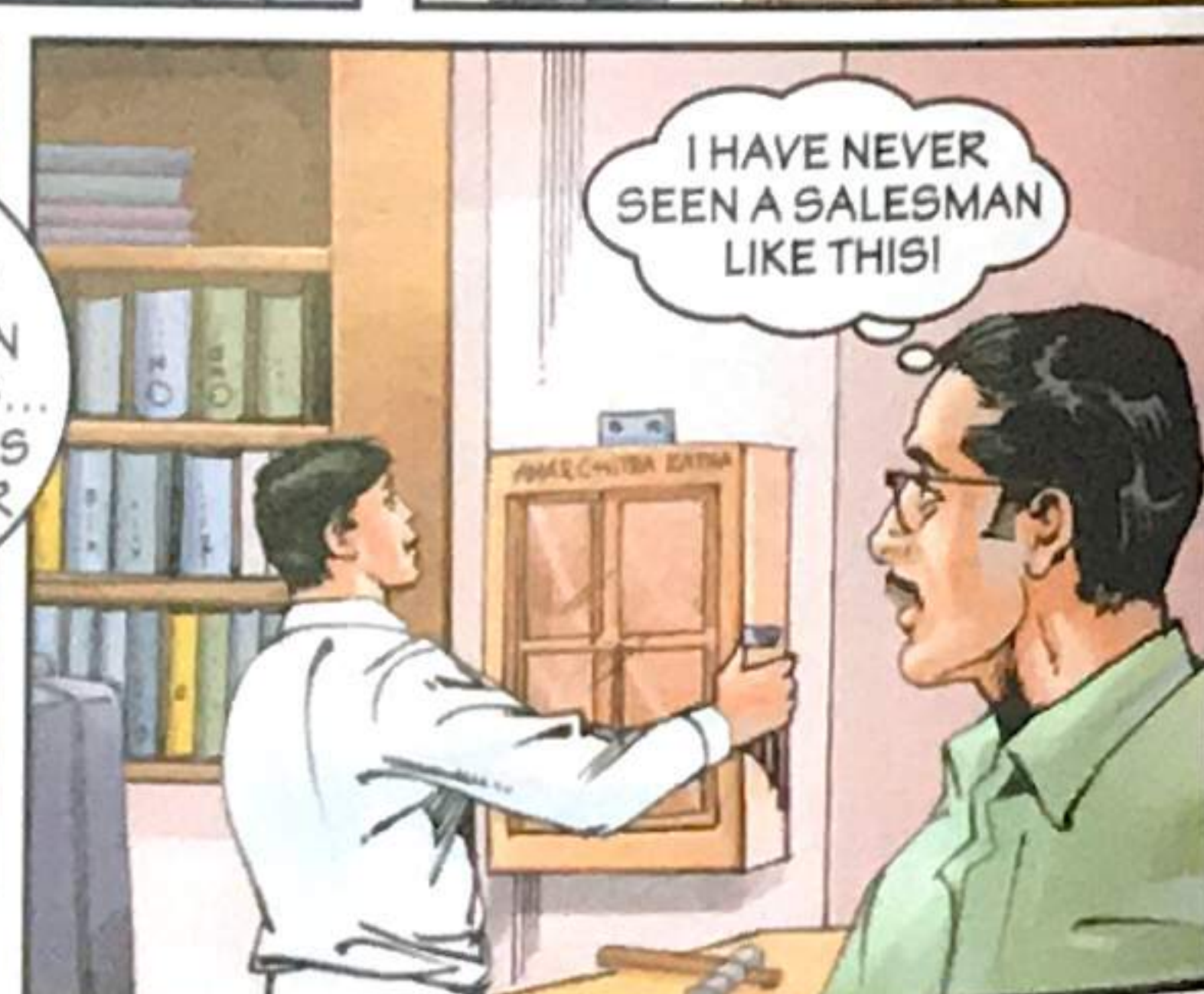
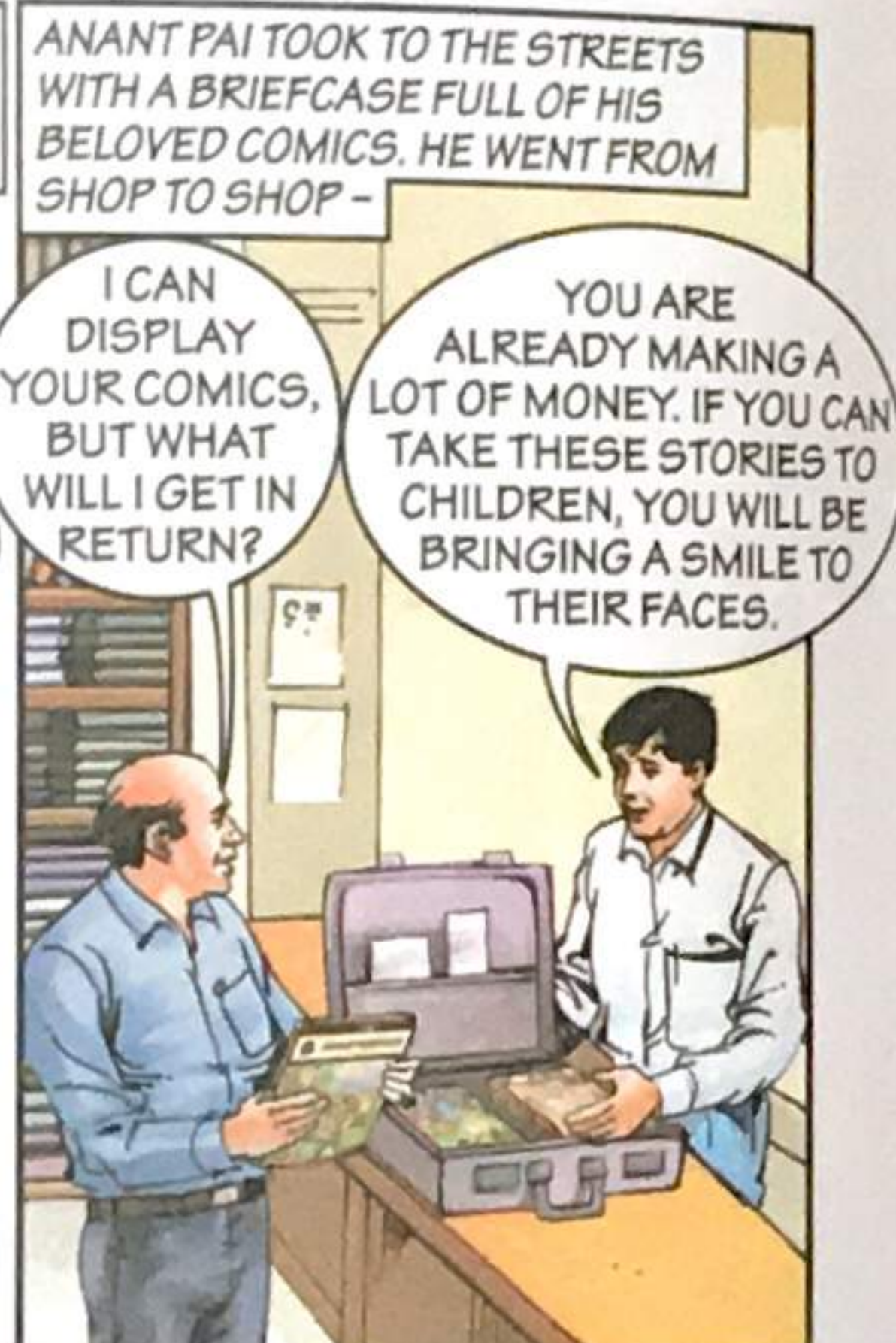


RAJI COULD RECITE EVERY LINE OF THE COMIC.



\* KRISHNA CARRIES THE SERIAL NO 11, THOUGH IT IS THE FIRST CHITRAKATHA PRODUCED BY ANANT PAI. SERIAL NOS 1 TO 10 ARE THE REPRINTS OF THE WESTERN COMICS.







AMAR CHITRA KATHA HAD STARTED BREAKING EVEN. PAI EXPANDED HIS TEAM BY INDUCTING SUBBA RAO, A SCHOOL TEACHER.

SUBBU, YOU ARE A TEACHER. TELL ME, HOW CAN WE TAKE OUR COMICS INTO SCHOOLS?

WE HAVE TO SHOW THEM THAT OUR HISTORICAL TITLES ARE MORE CHILD-FRIENDLY THAN A DRY HISTORY BOOK.

30 SCHOOLS IN DELHI PARTICIPATED IN THIS EXPERIMENT.



ANANT PAI HELD A SEMINAR IN DELHI ON THE ROLE OF CHITRAKATHA IN SCHOOL EDUCATION WHICH WAS INAUGURATED BY THE THEN UNION EDUCATION MINISTER. SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND EDUCATIONISTS TOOK PART IN THE SEMINAR. PAI CAME OUT WITH A PRESS CAMPAIGN.



HE EMPHASISED THAT ACKS WERE EDUCATIONAL COMICS CONTRIBUTING TO A CHILD'S GROWTH.

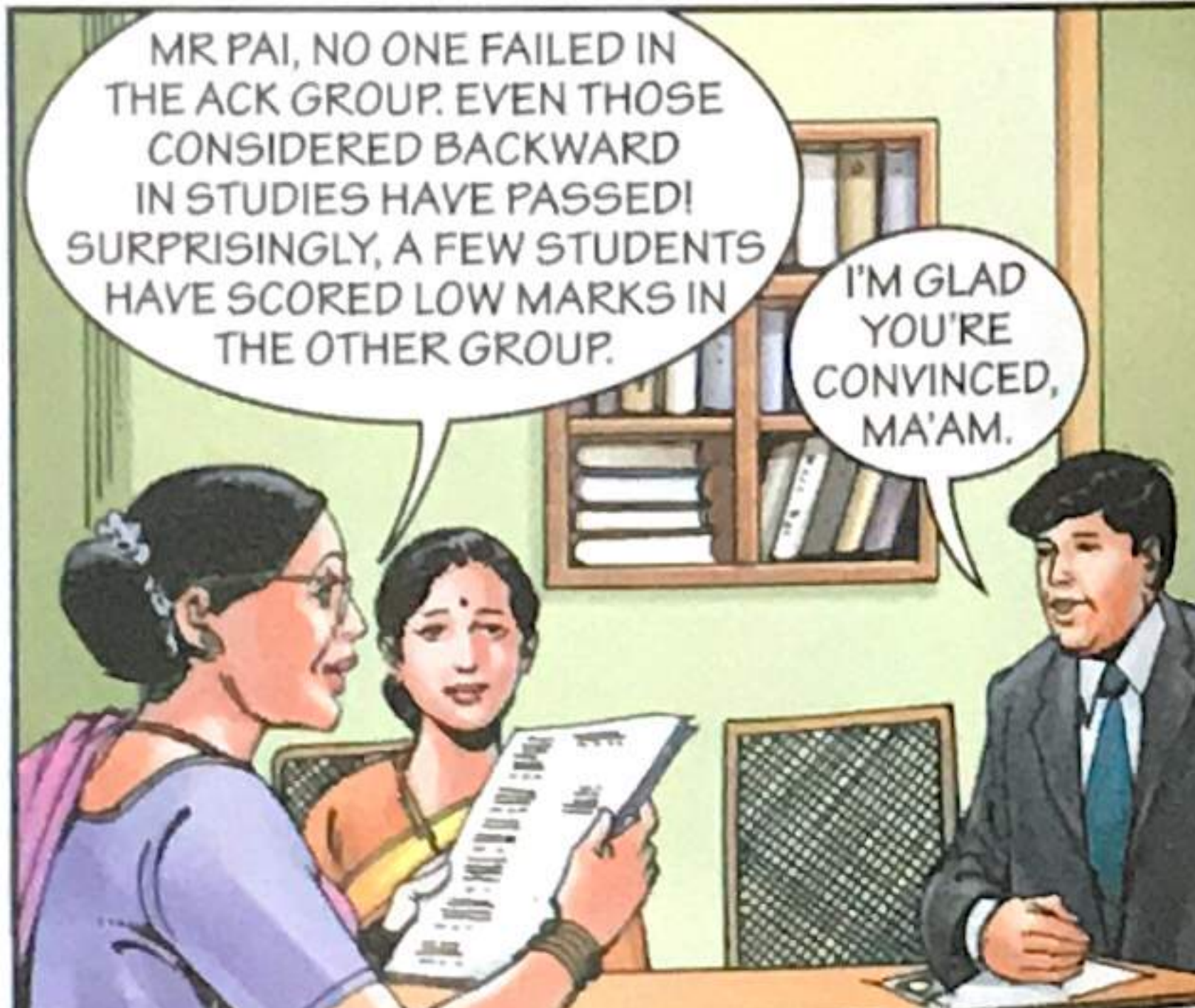
THE ACK THINK TANK CAME UP WITH A WINNING IDEA.

WE'RE GOING TO CONDUCT A UNIQUE EXPERIMENT TODAY. ONE SET OF STUDENTS WILL READ AN AMAR CHITRA KATHA ON RAZIA SULTANA, THE OTHER, THEIR HISTORY TEXT BOOKS. BOTH WILL ANSWER THE SAME QUESTION PAPER.



MR PAI, NO ONE FAILED IN THE ACK GROUP. EVEN THOSE CONSIDERED BACKWARD IN STUDIES HAVE PASSED! SURPRISINGLY, A FEW STUDENTS HAVE SCORED LOW MARKS IN THE OTHER GROUP.

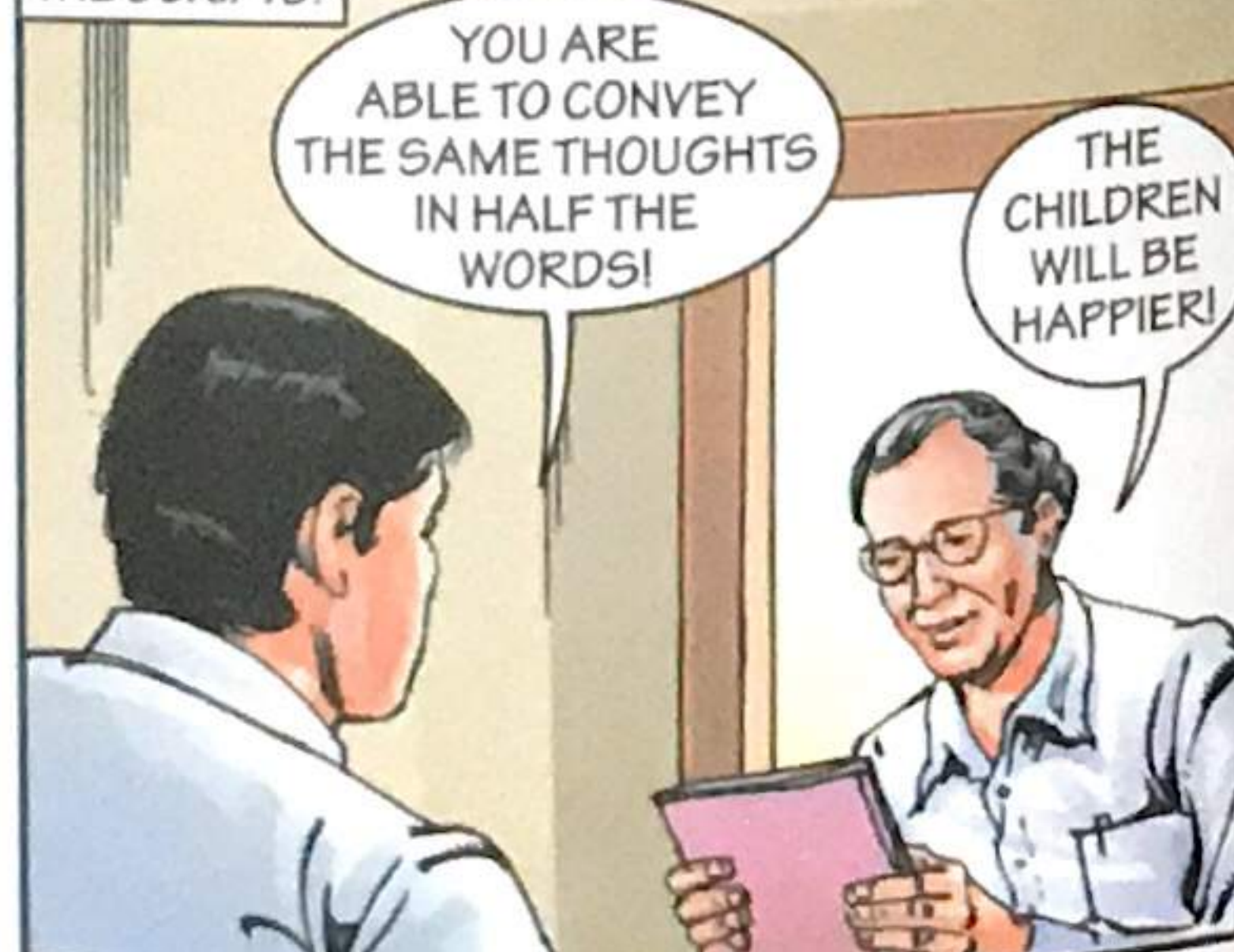
I'M GLAD YOU'RE CONVINCED, MA'AM.



TO PERFECT THE QUALITY OF THE COMICS, ANANT PAI REQUESTED THE EMINENT POET NISSIM EZEKIEL TO VET THE SCRIPTS.

YOU ARE ABLE TO CONVEY THE SAME THOUGHTS IN HALF THE WORDS!

THE CHILDREN WILL BE HAPPIER!

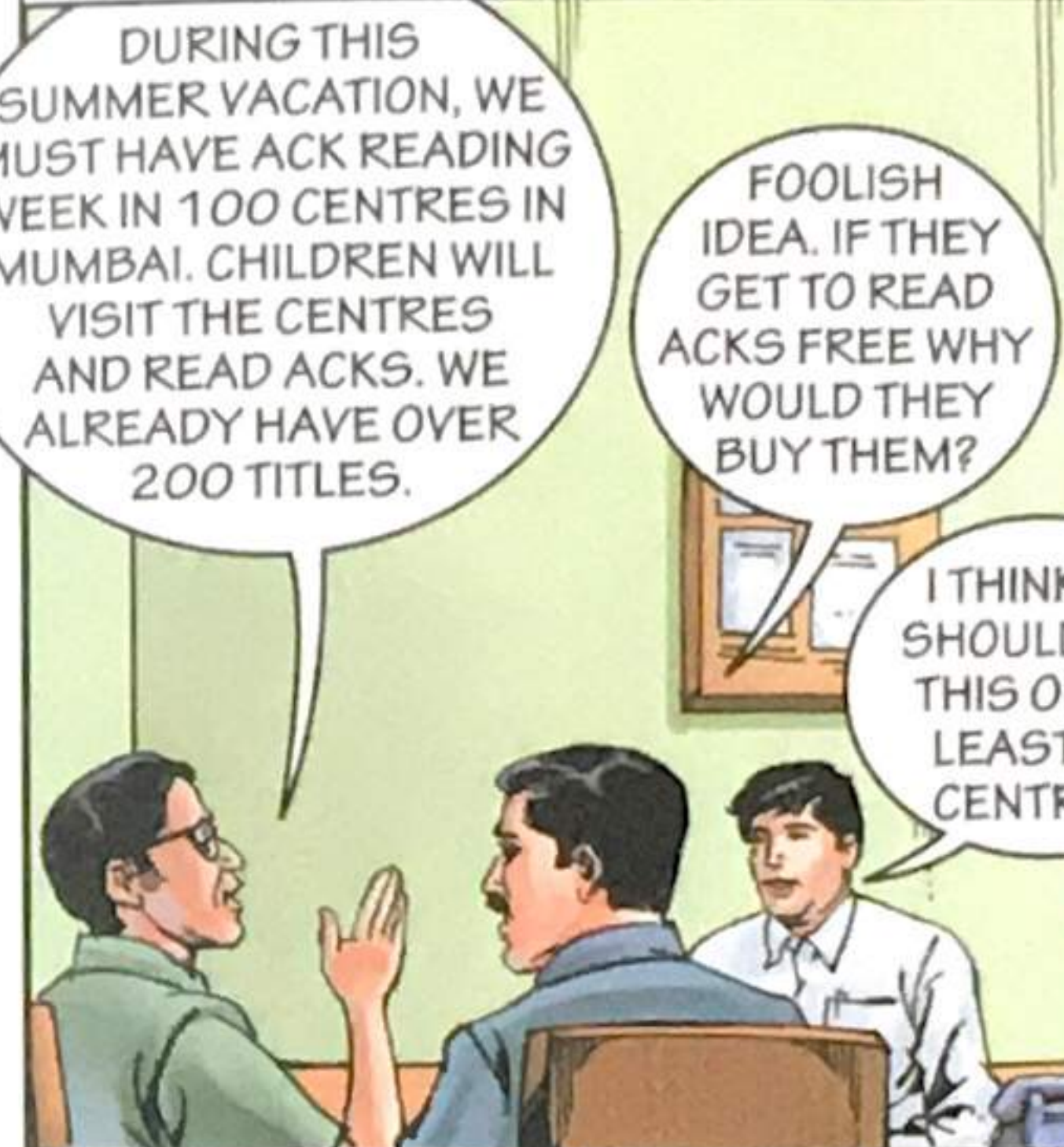


TO MAKE ACK A HOUSEHOLD NAME, ANANT PAI'S TEAM CAME UP WITH ANOTHER UNIQUE IDEA.

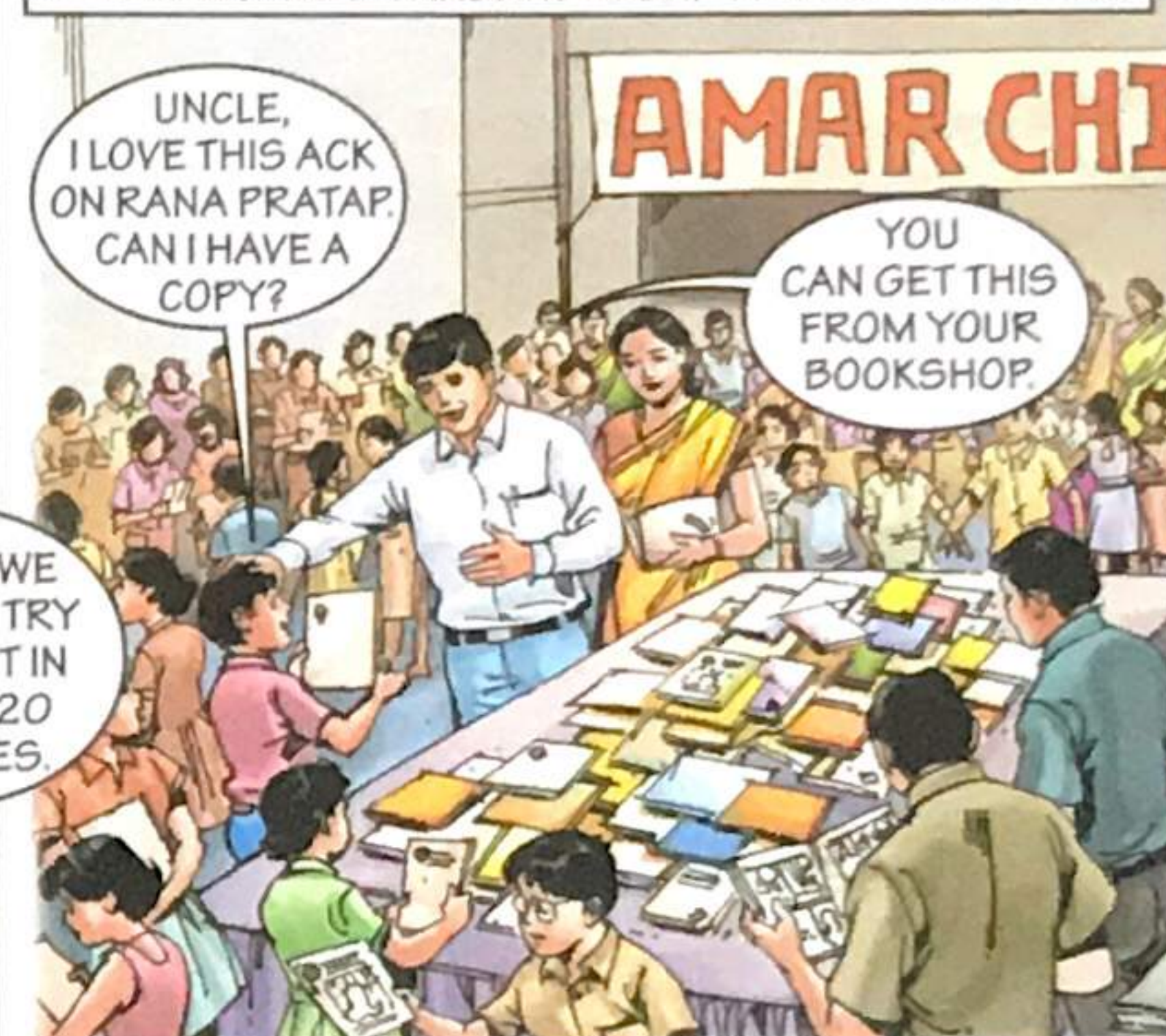
DURING THIS SUMMER VACATION, WE MUST HAVE ACK READING WEEK IN 100 CENTRES IN MUMBAI. CHILDREN WILL VISIT THE CENTRES AND READ ACKS. WE ALREADY HAVE OVER 200 TITLES.

FOOLISH IDEA. IF THEY GET TO READ ACKS FREE WHY WOULD THEY BUY THEM?

I THINK WE SHOULD TRY THIS OUT IN AT LEAST 20 CENTRES.



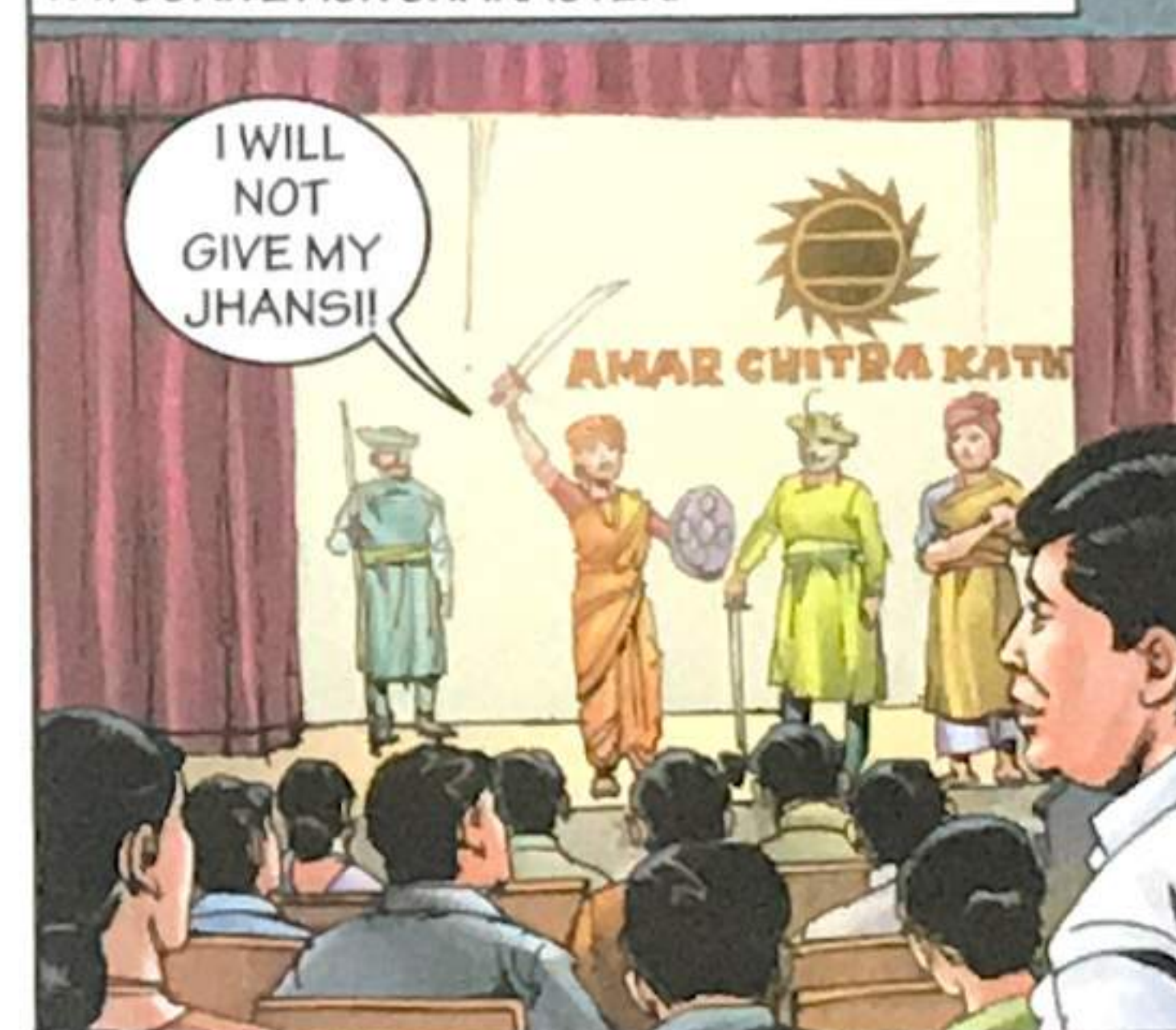
CHILDREN CAME IN LARGE NUMBERS TO READ THE COMICS.



UNCLE, I LOVE THIS ACK ON RANA PRATAP. CAN I HAVE A COPY?

YOU CAN GET THIS FROM YOUR BOOKSHOP.

FANCY DRESS COMPETITIONS WERE HELD FOR CHILDREN. THEY CAME DRESSED AS THEIR FAVOURITE ACK CHARACTER.



I WILL NOT GIVE MY JHANSI!

A FUNCTION WAS HELD IN AURANGABAD TO MARK THE RELEASE OF THE ACK ON CHOKHAMELA, KNOWN FOR HIS DEVOTIONAL POEMS IN MARATHI CALLED ABHANGS.

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SING ABHANGS. EVERY CHILD WHO SINGS GETS AN ACK AS A PRIZE.

UNCLE PAI, I'LL SING A TUKARAM ABHANG.

AND I CAN SING CHOKHAMELA'S ABHANG.



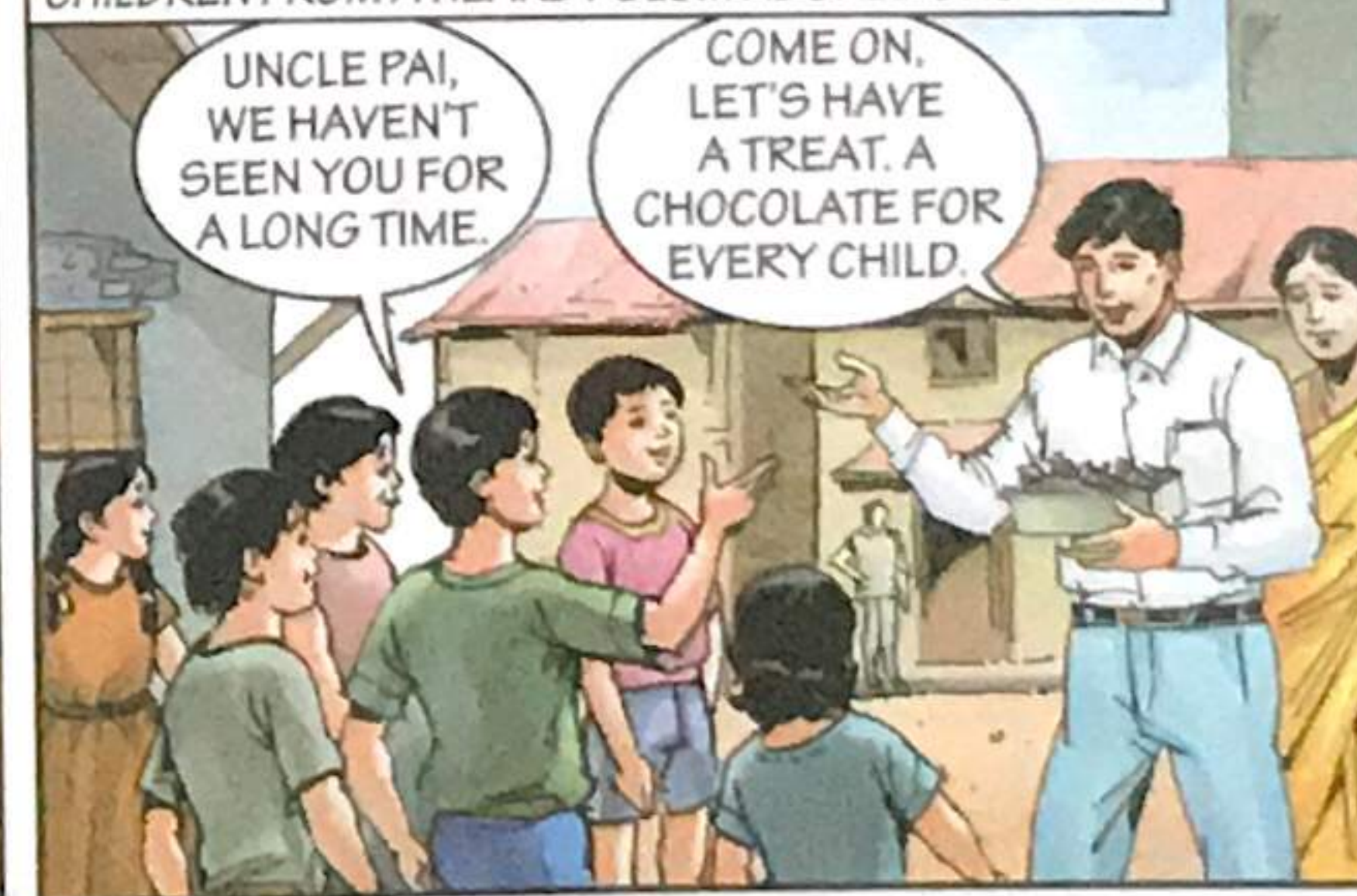
ANANT AND LALITA WERE OVERWHELMED BY THE LOVE THEY RECEIVED.



LALITA, SEE OUR CHILDREN. HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF THEM.

THE PAIS HAD NO CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN. THEY DEDICATED ALL THEIR LIFE TO SERVE CHILDREN.

CHILDREN FROM A NEARBY SLUM ADORED UNCLE PAI.



UNCLE PAI, WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A LONG TIME.

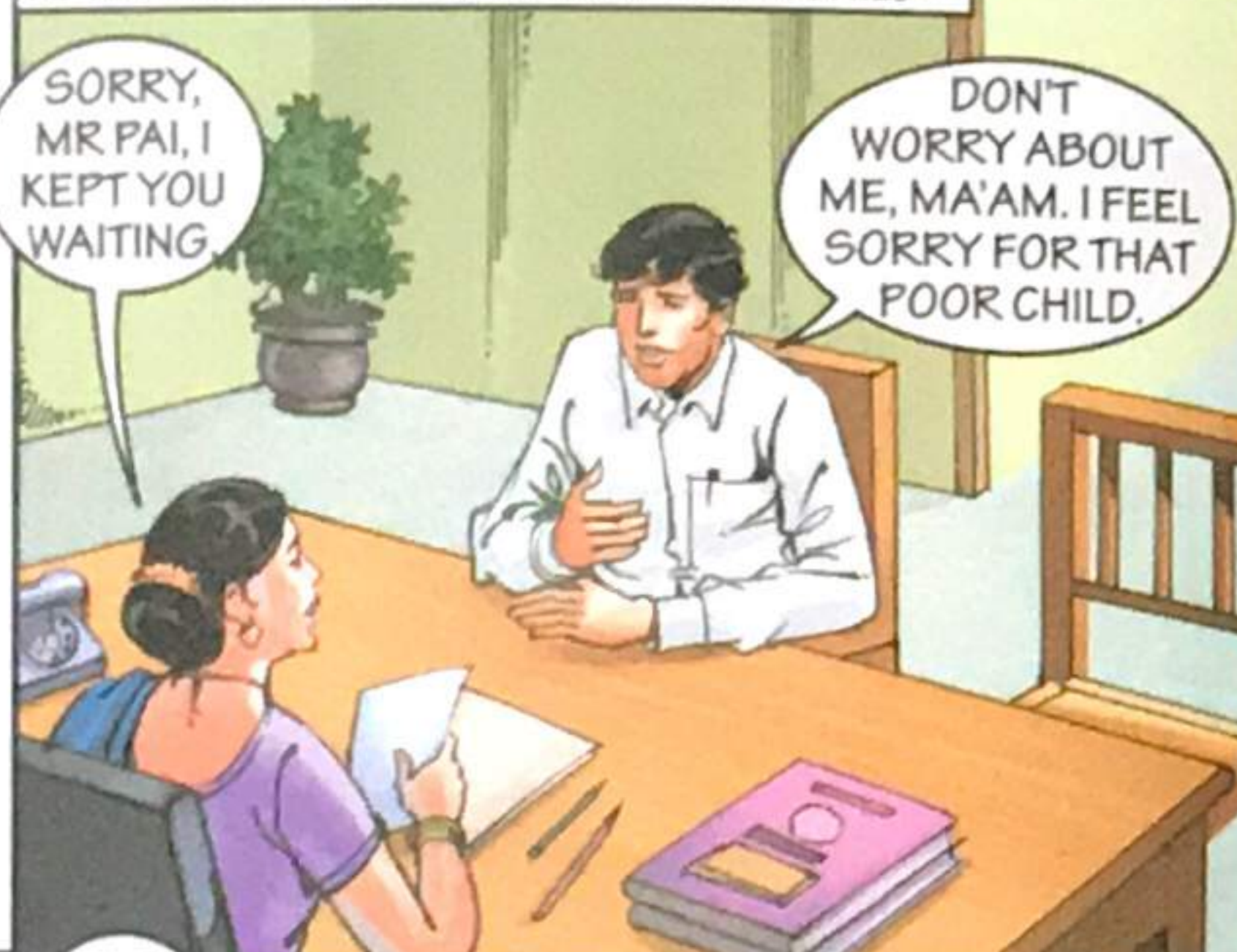
COME ON, LET'S HAVE A TREAT. A CHOCOLATE FOR EVERY CHILD.



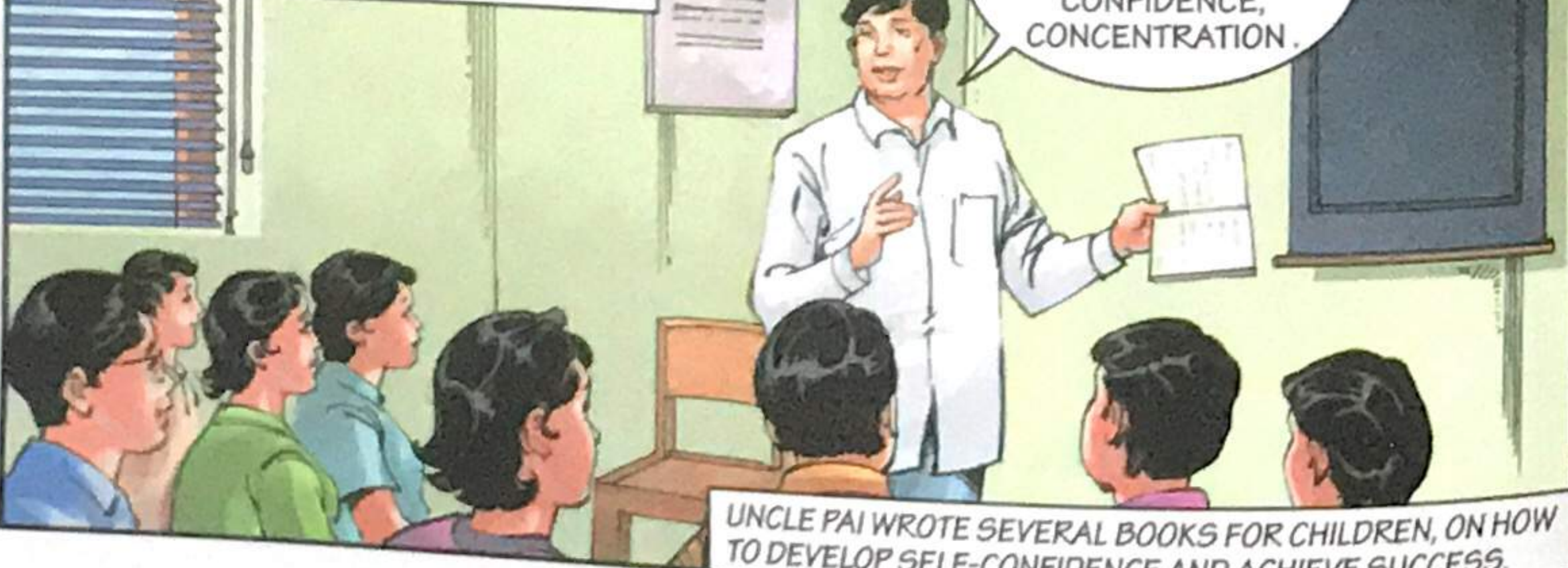
ONE DAY, WHEN HE CALLED ON A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL -



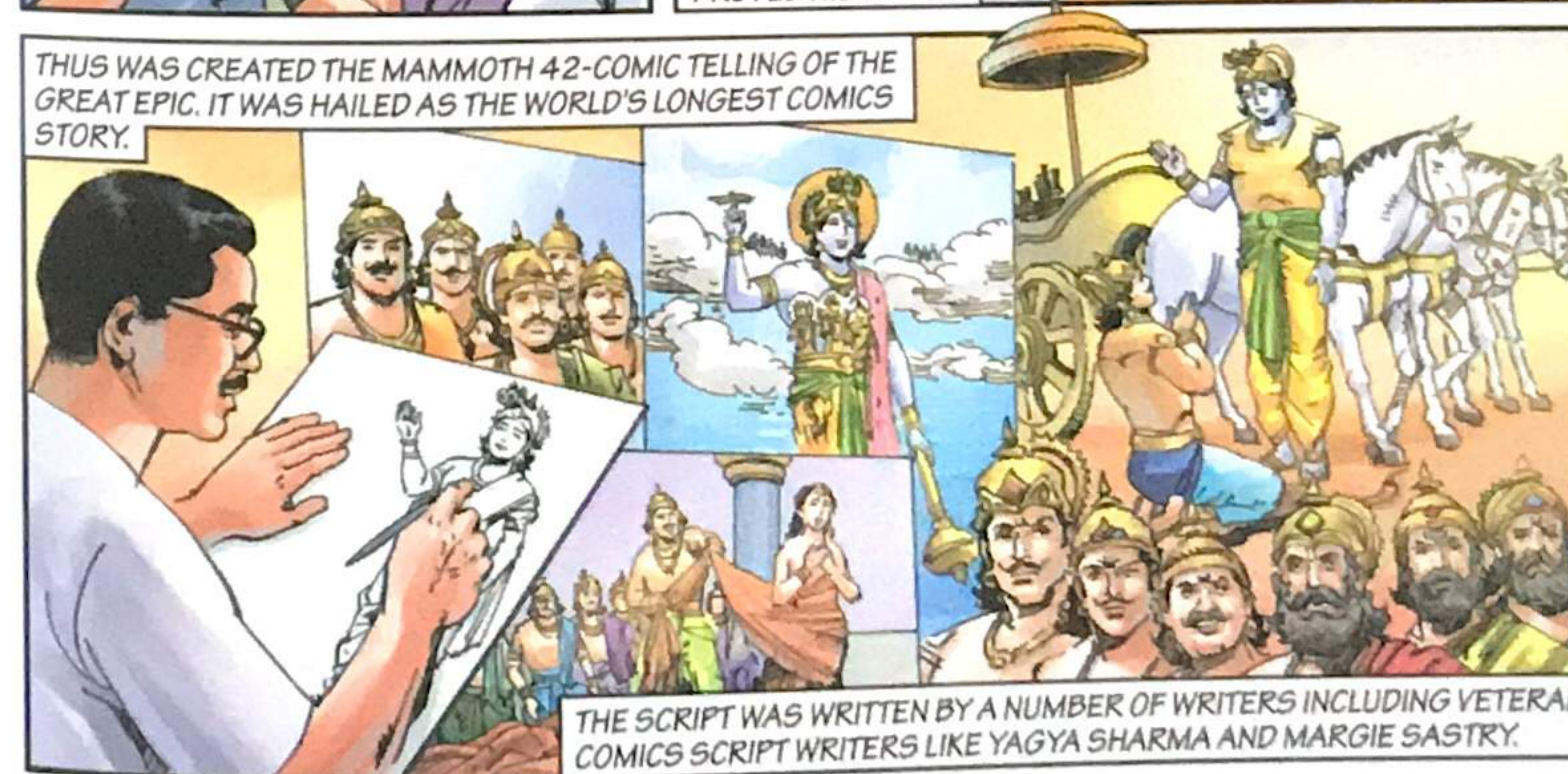
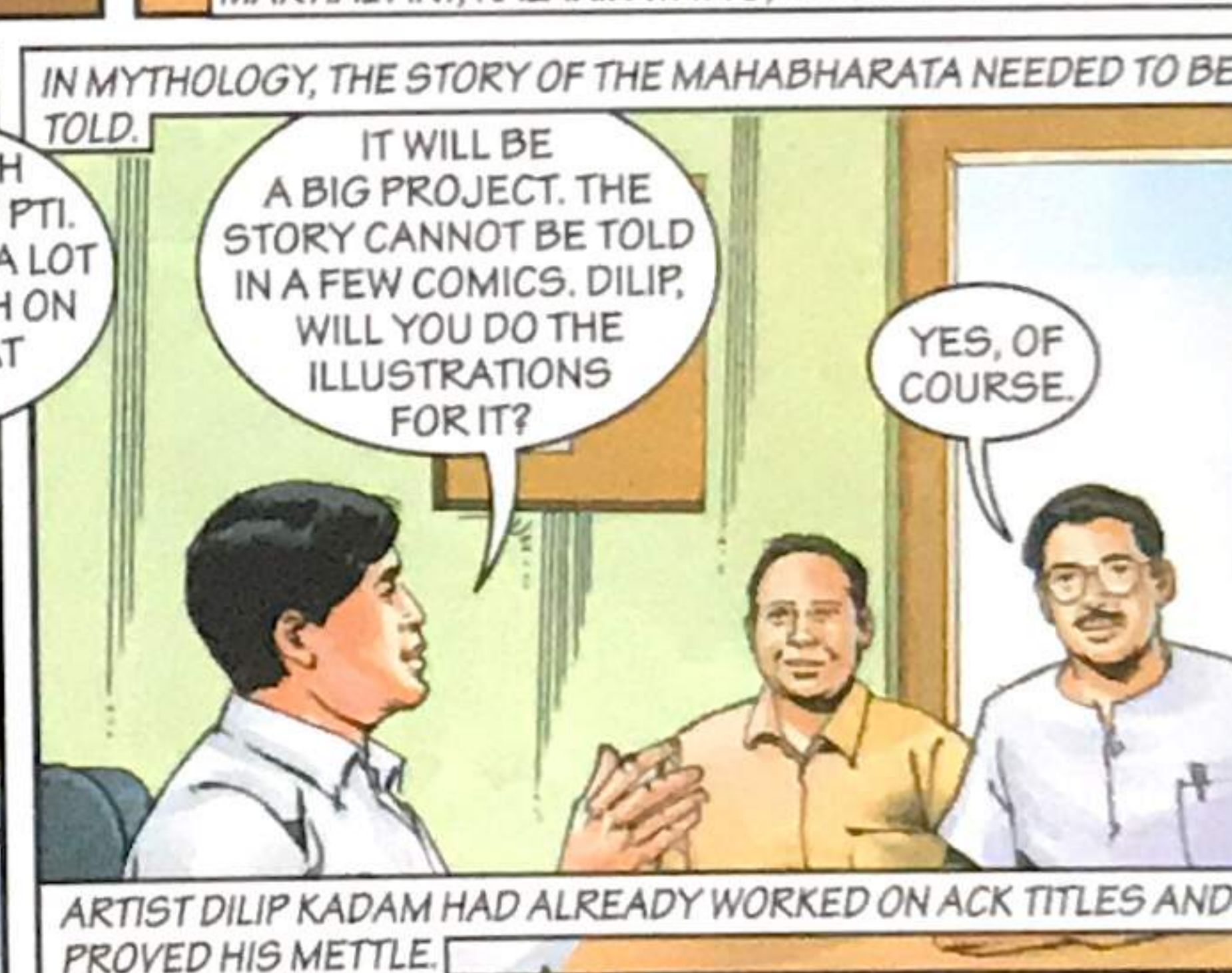
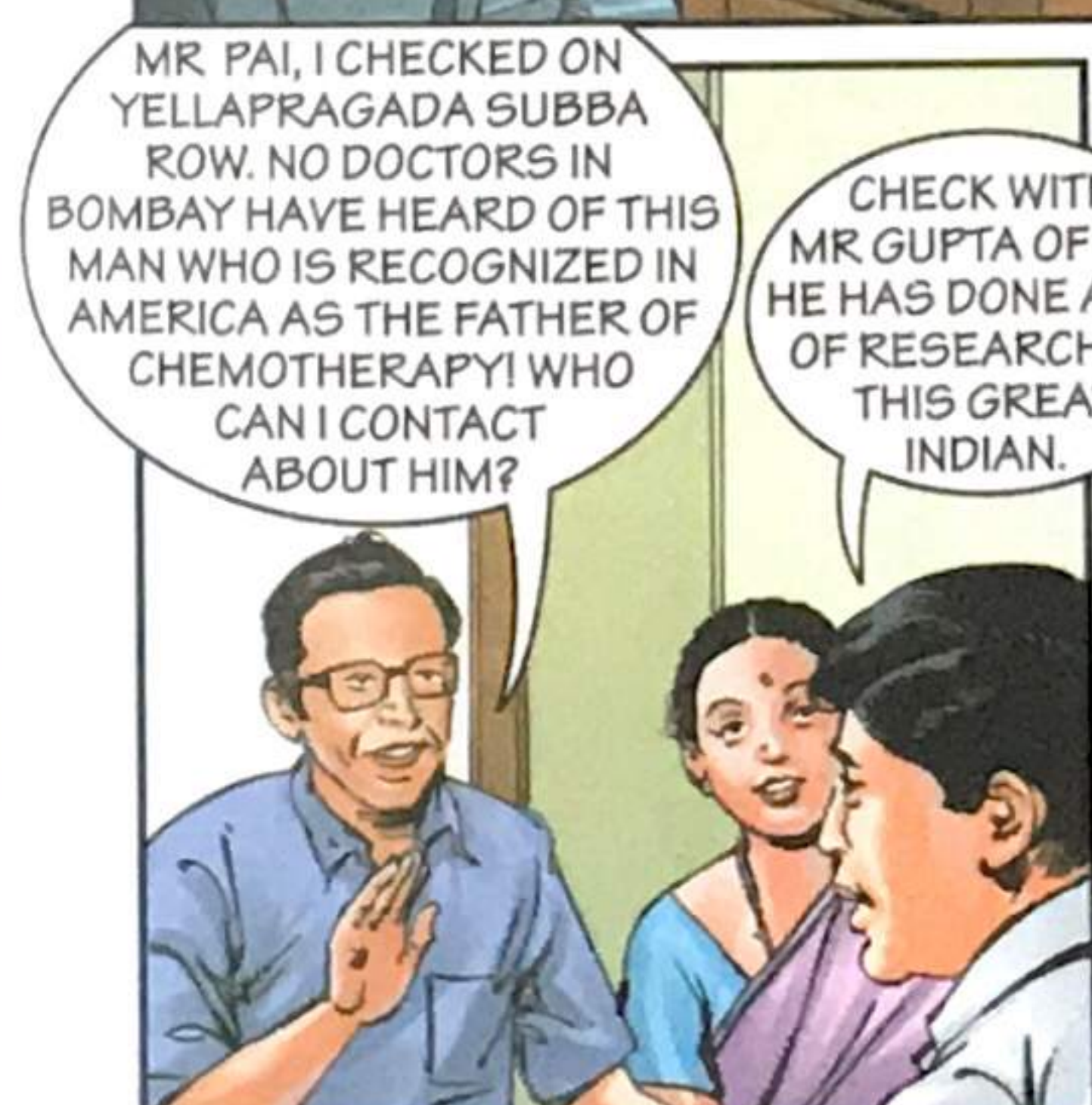
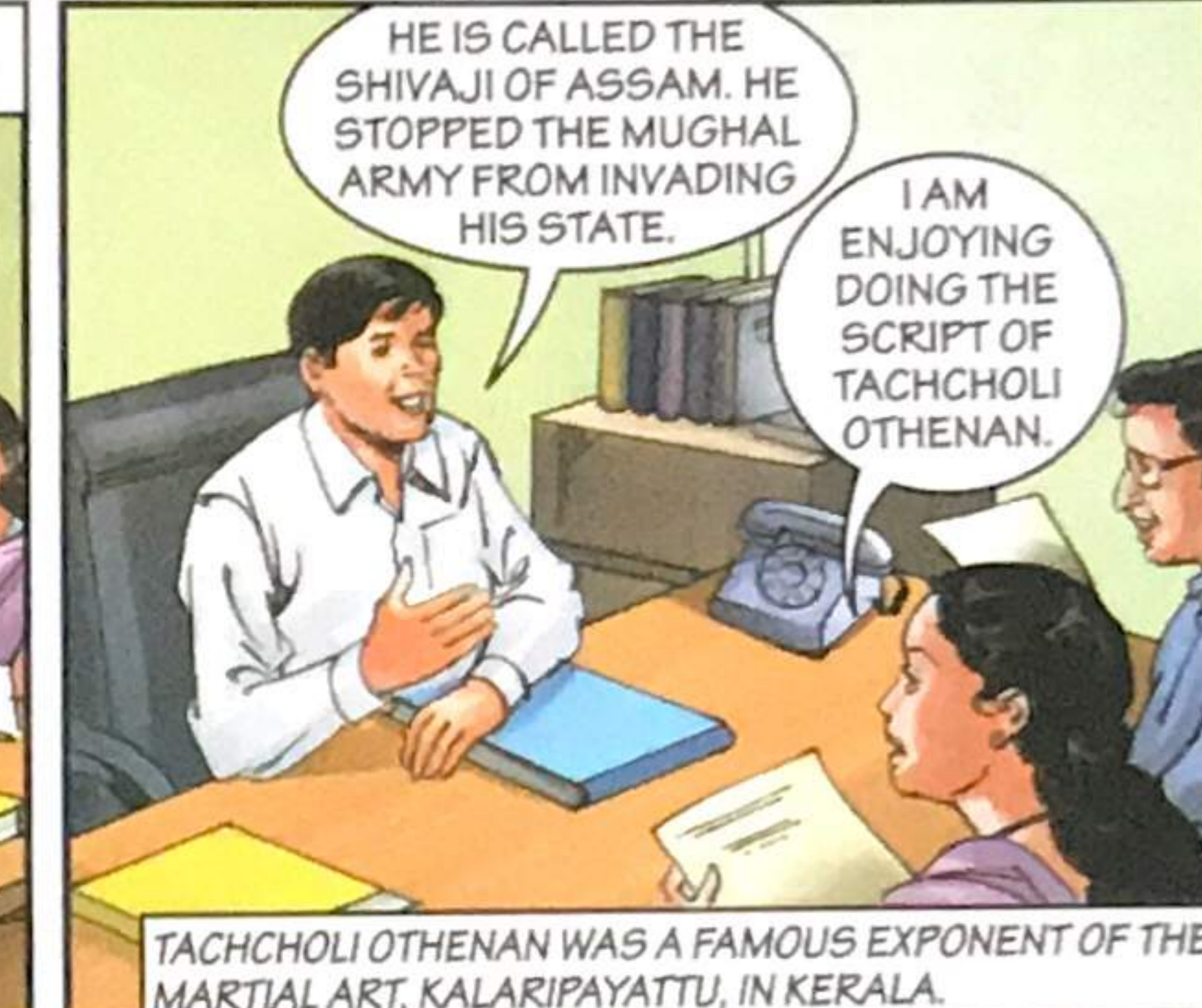
AFTER THE PARENTS LEFT WITH THEIR CHILD -



THUS WAS BORN THE PARTHA MOVEMENT. PAI FORMED PARTHA CLUBS OF PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, URGING CHILDREN TO HAVE SELF-BELIEF AND WORK TOWARDS THEIR CHERISHED GOALS, UNMINDFUL OF TEMPORARY SETBACKS.

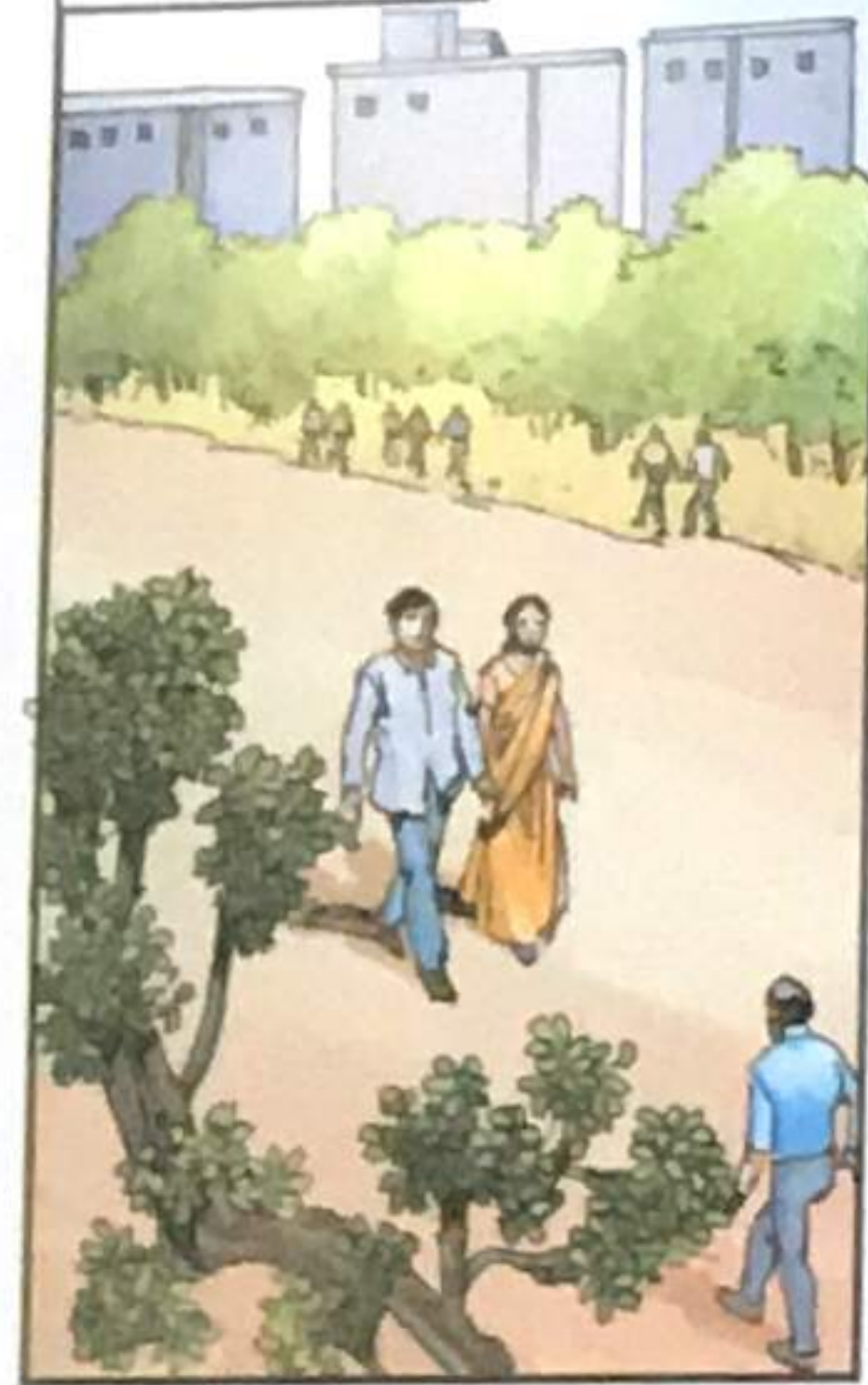


MEANWHILE, ACK WAS EMERGING AS A POWERFUL TOOL FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION.





ANANT PAI'S OWN LIFE WAS A DISCIPLINED ONE. HE WAS A FITNESS ENTHUSIAST AND WAS UP BEFORE DAWN FOR HIS MORNING WALK.

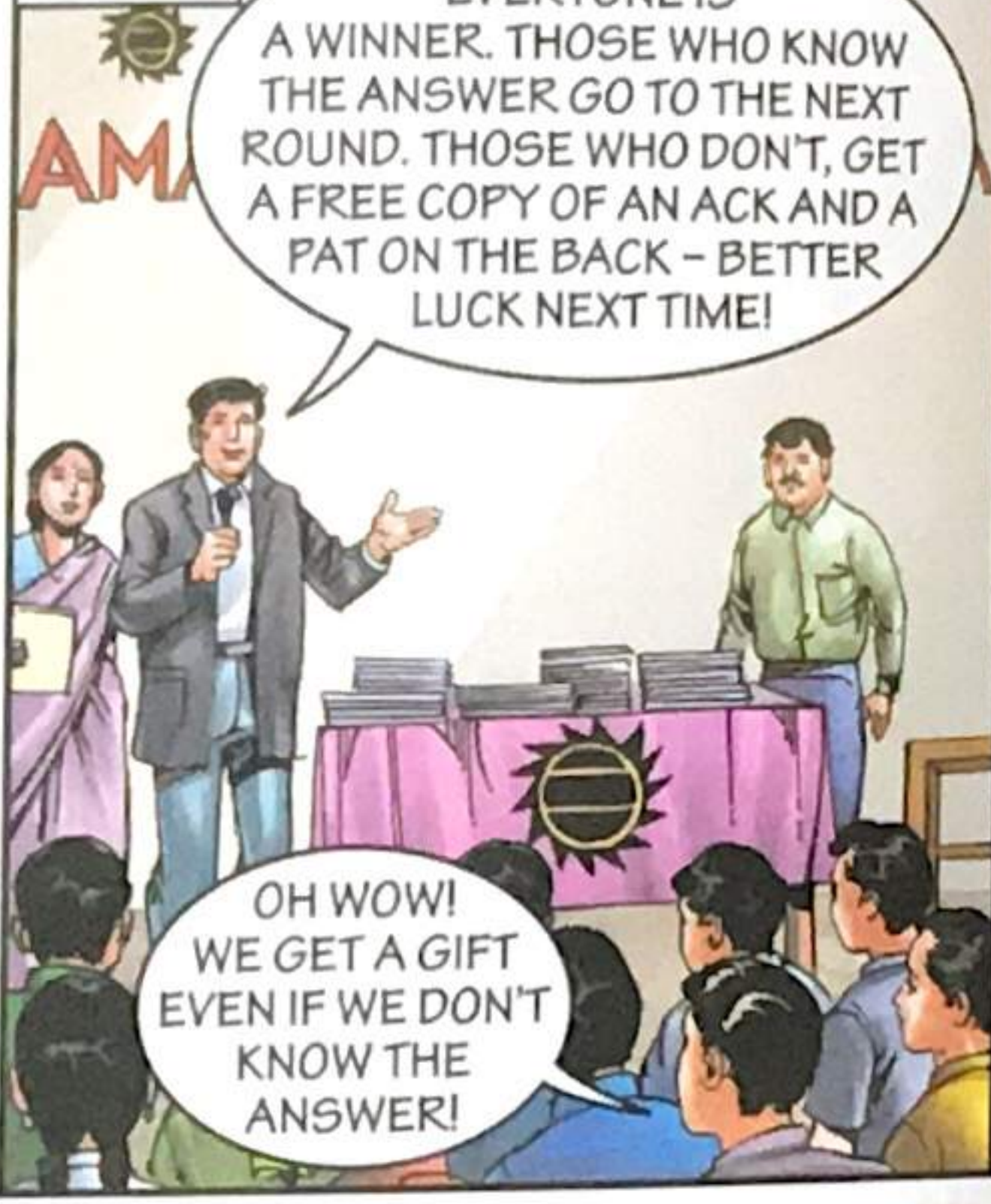


RABINDRA SANGEET WAS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF HIS LIFE.



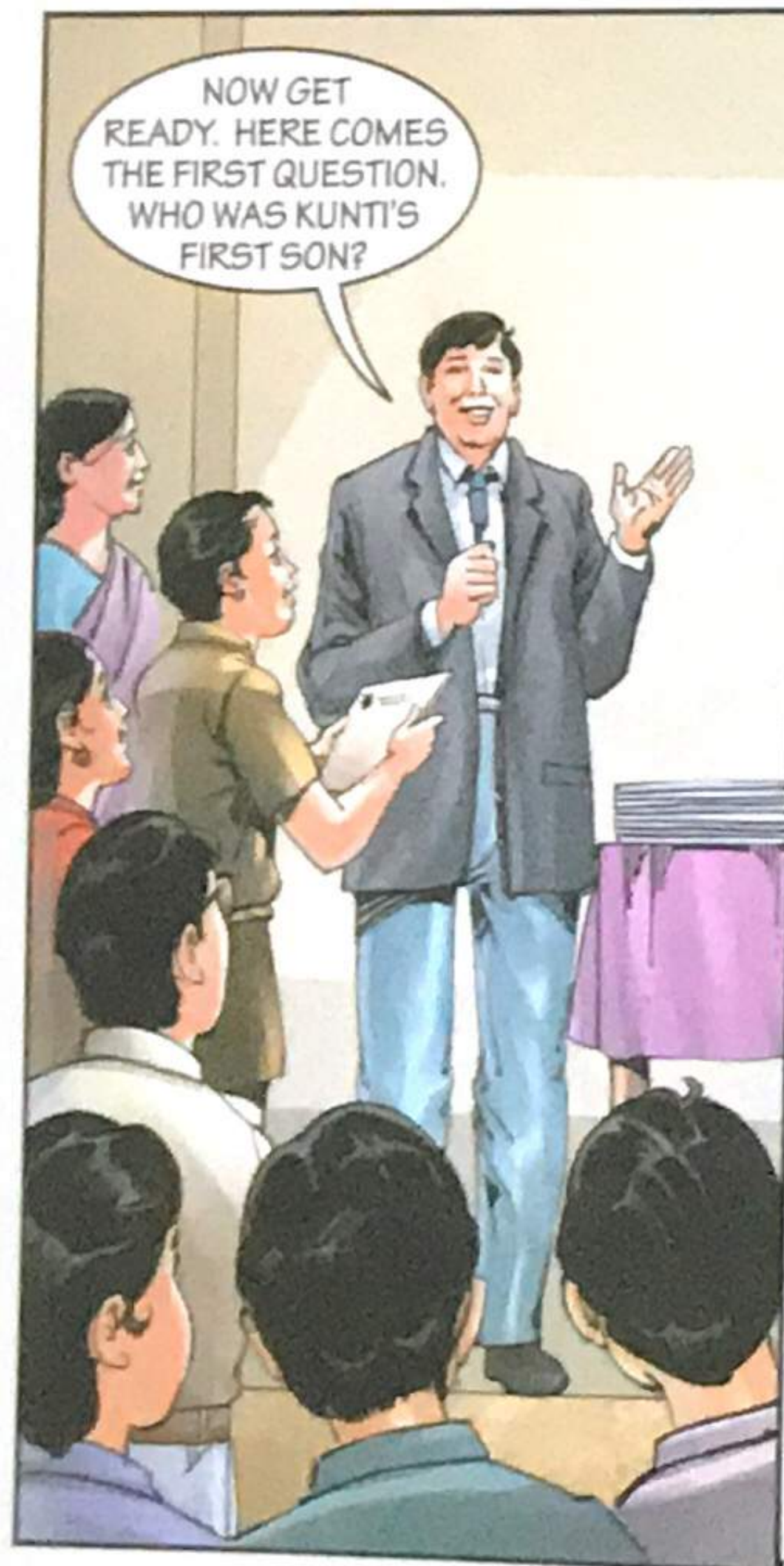
PURONO SEI DINER KOTHA BHULBO KI RE HAI ...\*

TO POPULARISE AMAR CHITRA KATHA, PAI HELD QUIZ CONTESTS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. HIS QUIZ SHOW HAD A UNIQUE FORMAT.



EVERYONE IS A WINNER. THOSE WHO KNOW THE ANSWER GO TO THE NEXT ROUND. THOSE WHO DON'T, GET A FREE COPY OF AN ACK AND A PAT ON THE BACK - BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

OH WOW! WE GET A GIFT EVEN IF WE DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER!



NOW GET READY. HERE COMES THE FIRST QUESTION. WHO WAS KUNTI'S FIRST SON?



YUDHISHTHIRA, KARNA OR BHEEMA?

UNCLE, I KNOW THE ANSWER.

I TOO.

I TOO.

THE ACK QUIZ CONTESTS WERE A HUGE SUCCESS.

\* THE MEMORIES OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS, CAN YOU EVER FORGET?

AS THE POPULARITY OF ACK SOARED, THE IBH MANAGEMENT WANTED MORE TITLES.

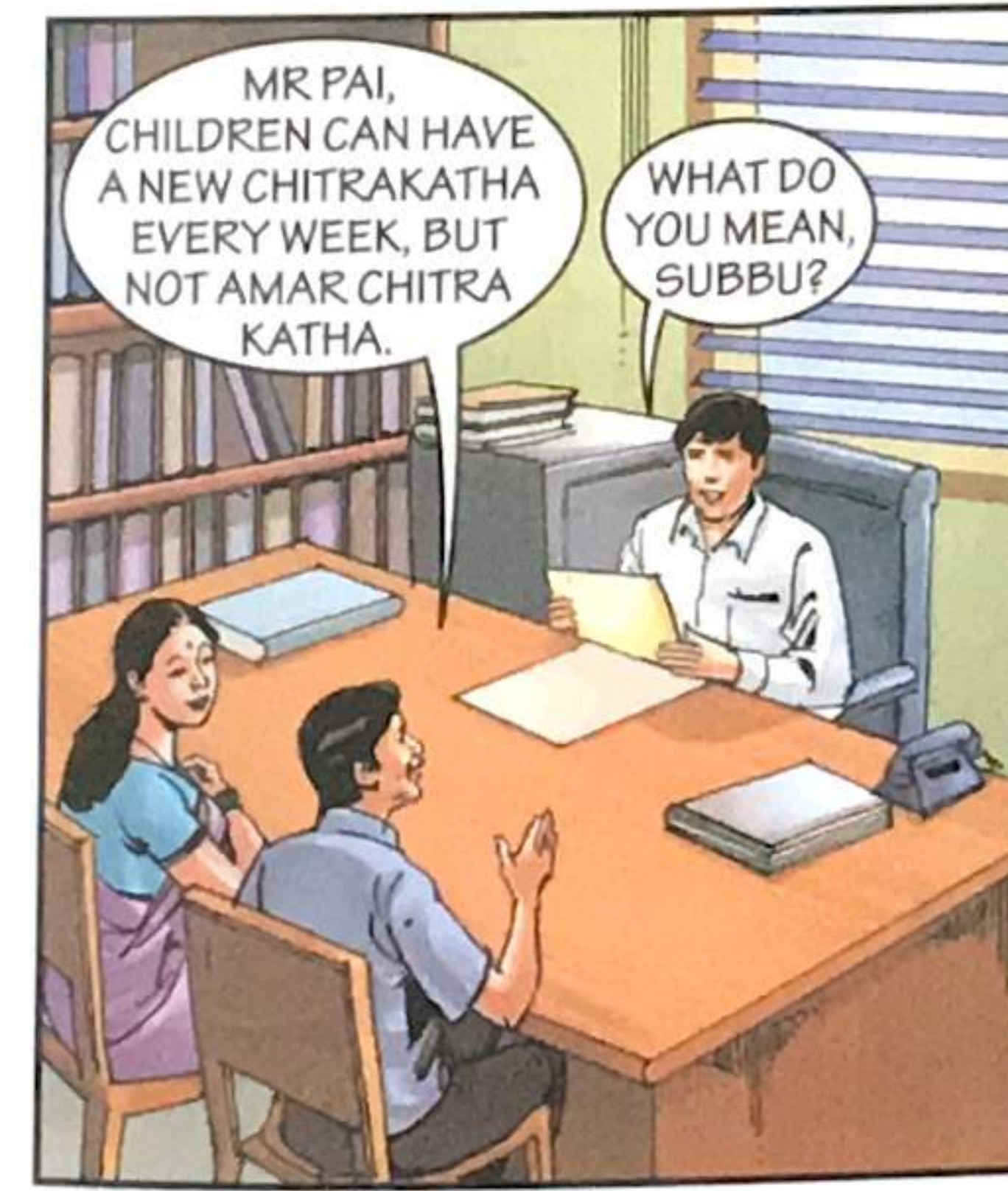


G.L. WANTS TO MAKE ACK A WEEKLY.

WEEKLY, MR PAI?



YES, KAMALA. CHILDREN FINISH AN ACK IN NO TIME AND THEY WELCOME A NEW ACK EVERY WEEK.



MR PAI, CHILDREN CAN HAVE A NEW CHITRAKATHA EVERY WEEK, BUT NOT AMAR CHITRA KATHA.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SUBBU?

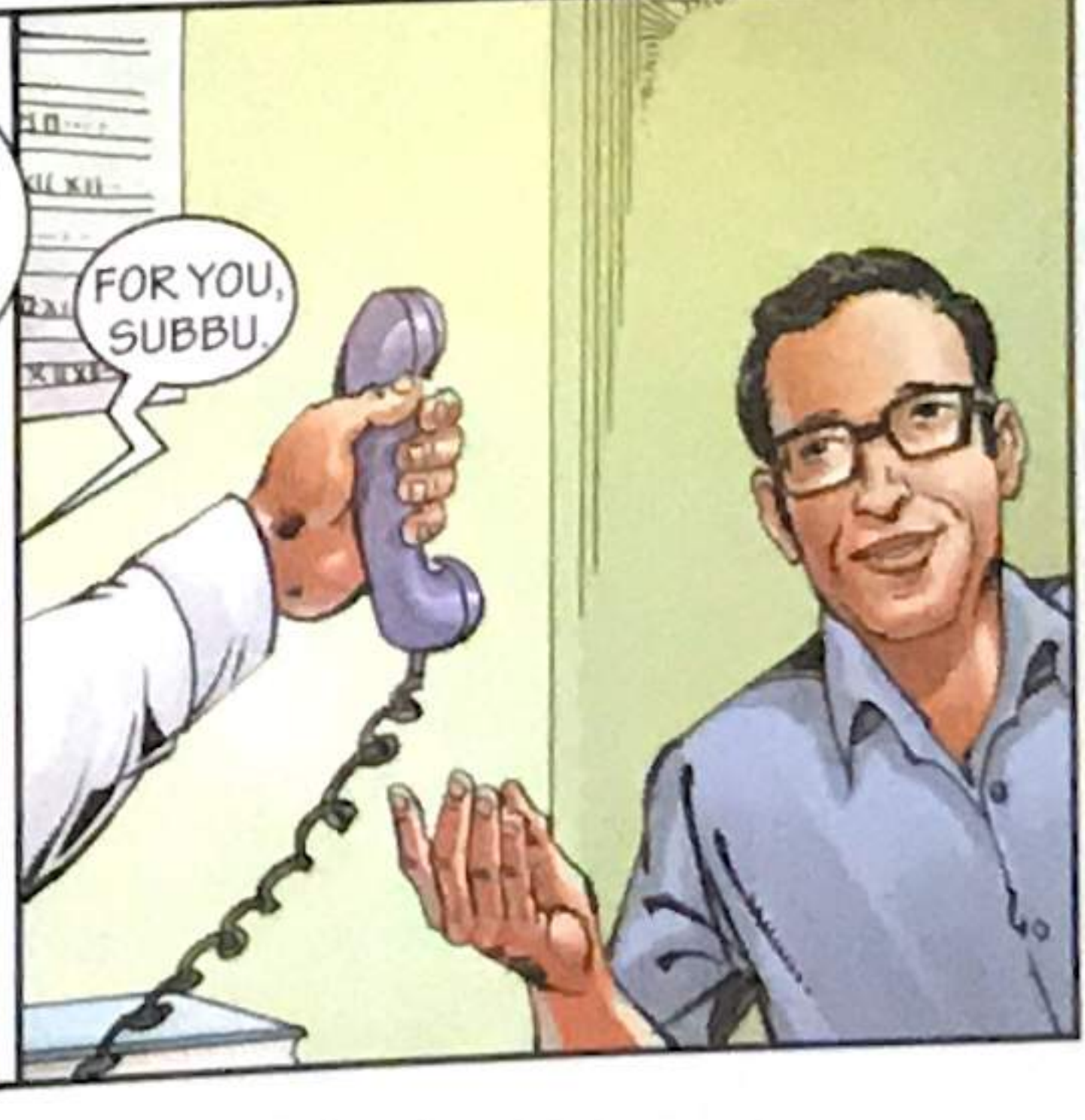
LET'S BRING OUT ANOTHER PUBLICATION, A COMICS DIGEST WITH A LOT OF VARIETY - ANIMAL TALES, ADVENTURES, HUMOUR, SCIENCE AND ANIMAL LIFE.

A COMICS DIGEST, HMM... LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.



THE NEXT WEEK -

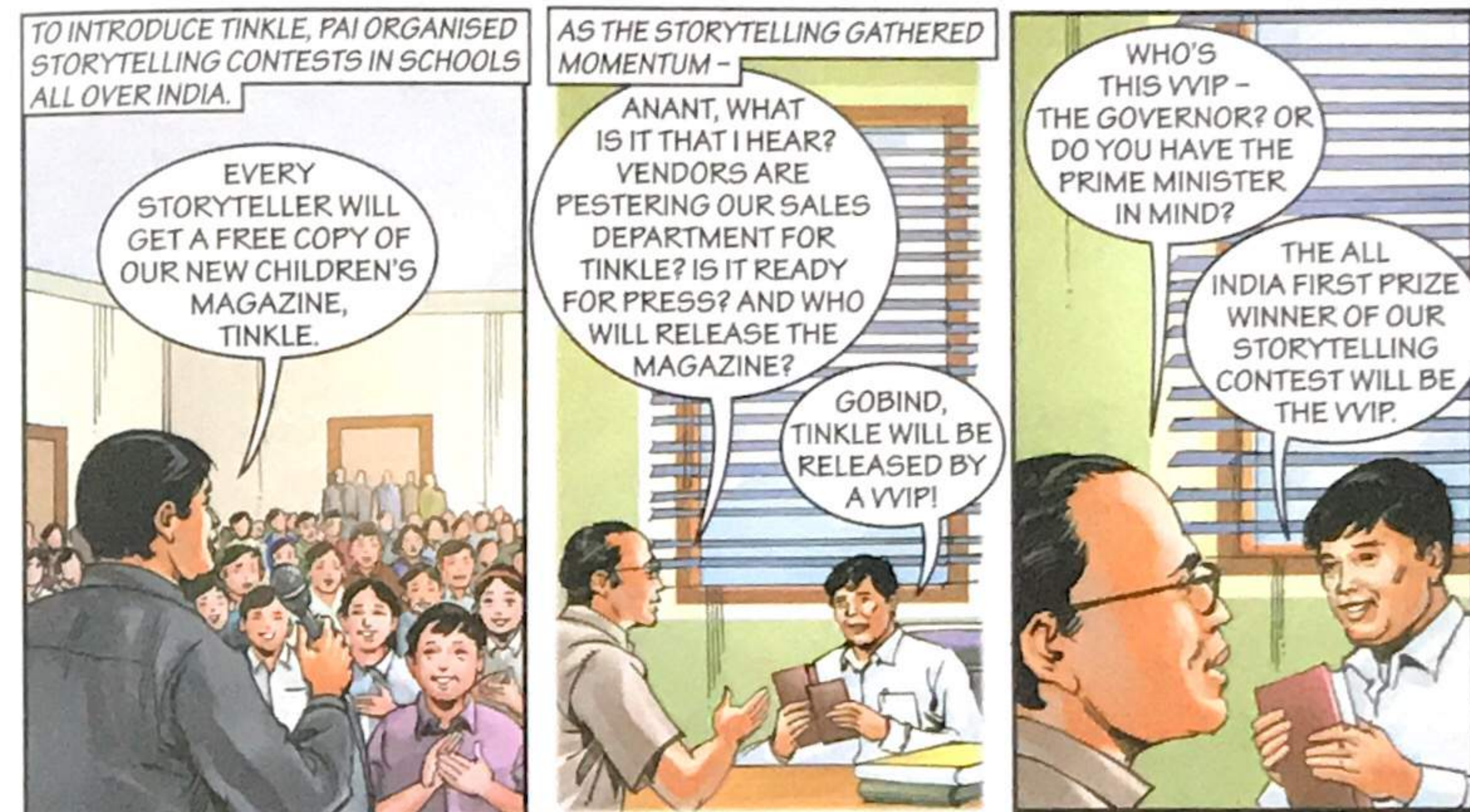
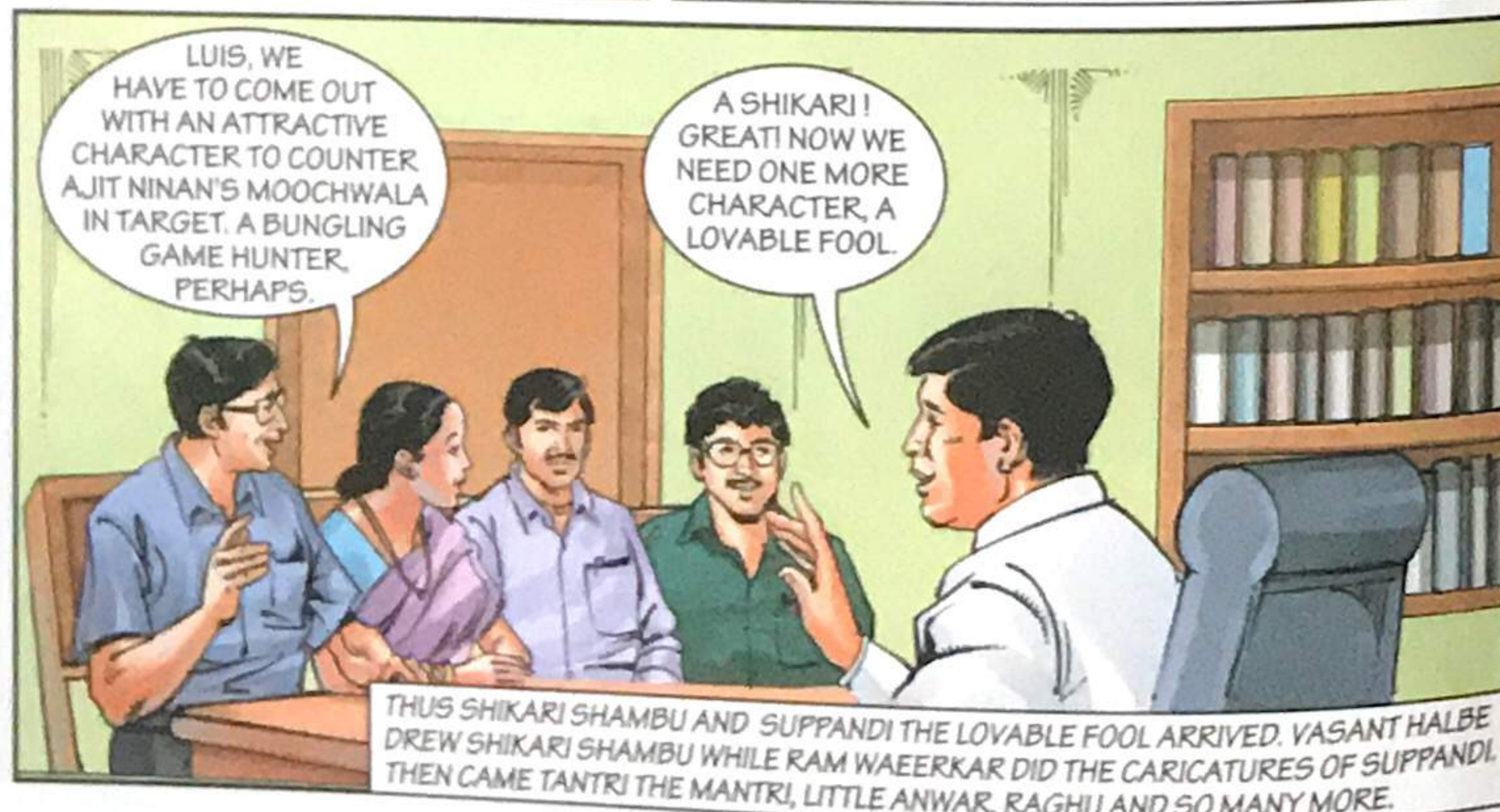
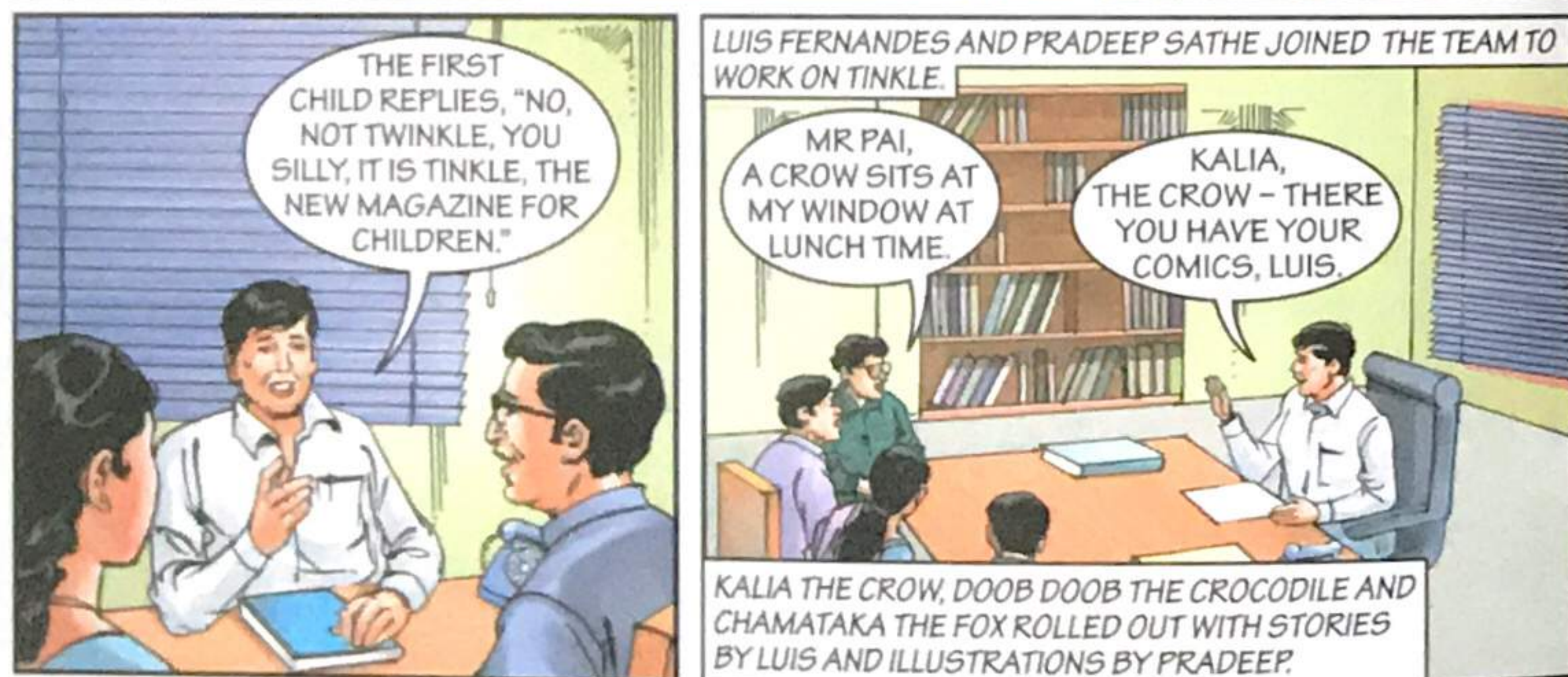
G.L. LIKES THE IDEA OF A COMICS DIGEST. NOW LET'S THINK OF A WINNING NAME... SOMETHING MUSICAL WHICH CHILDREN WILL LOVE TO SAY.



FOR YOU, SUBBU.

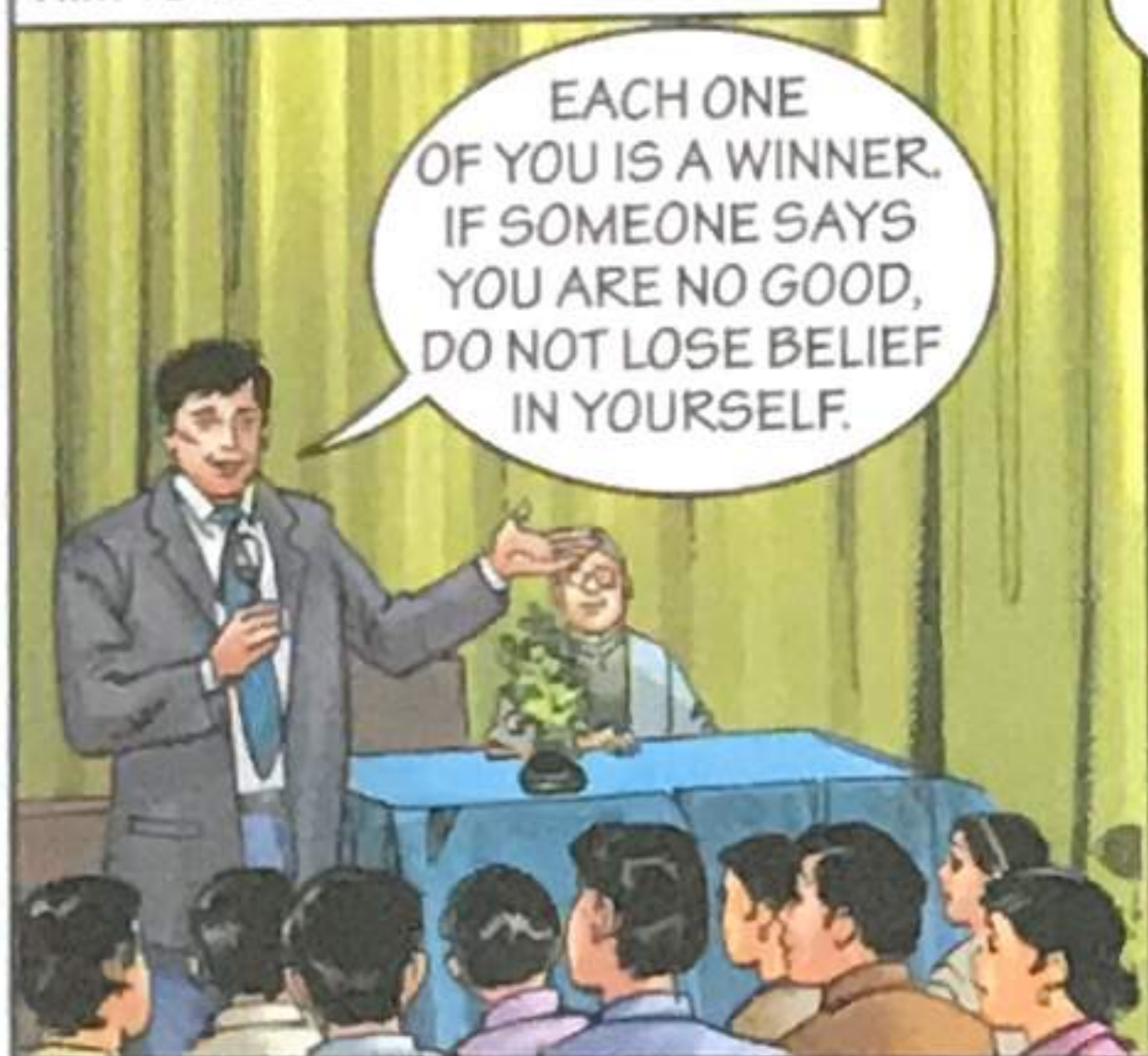
TING, TING







ANANT PAI WAS A MUCH SOUGHT-AFTER SPEAKER. SCHOOLS WHICH HAD REFUSED ADMISSION TO THIS VILLAGE BOY, BEGGED HIM TO ADDRESS THEIR STUDENTS.



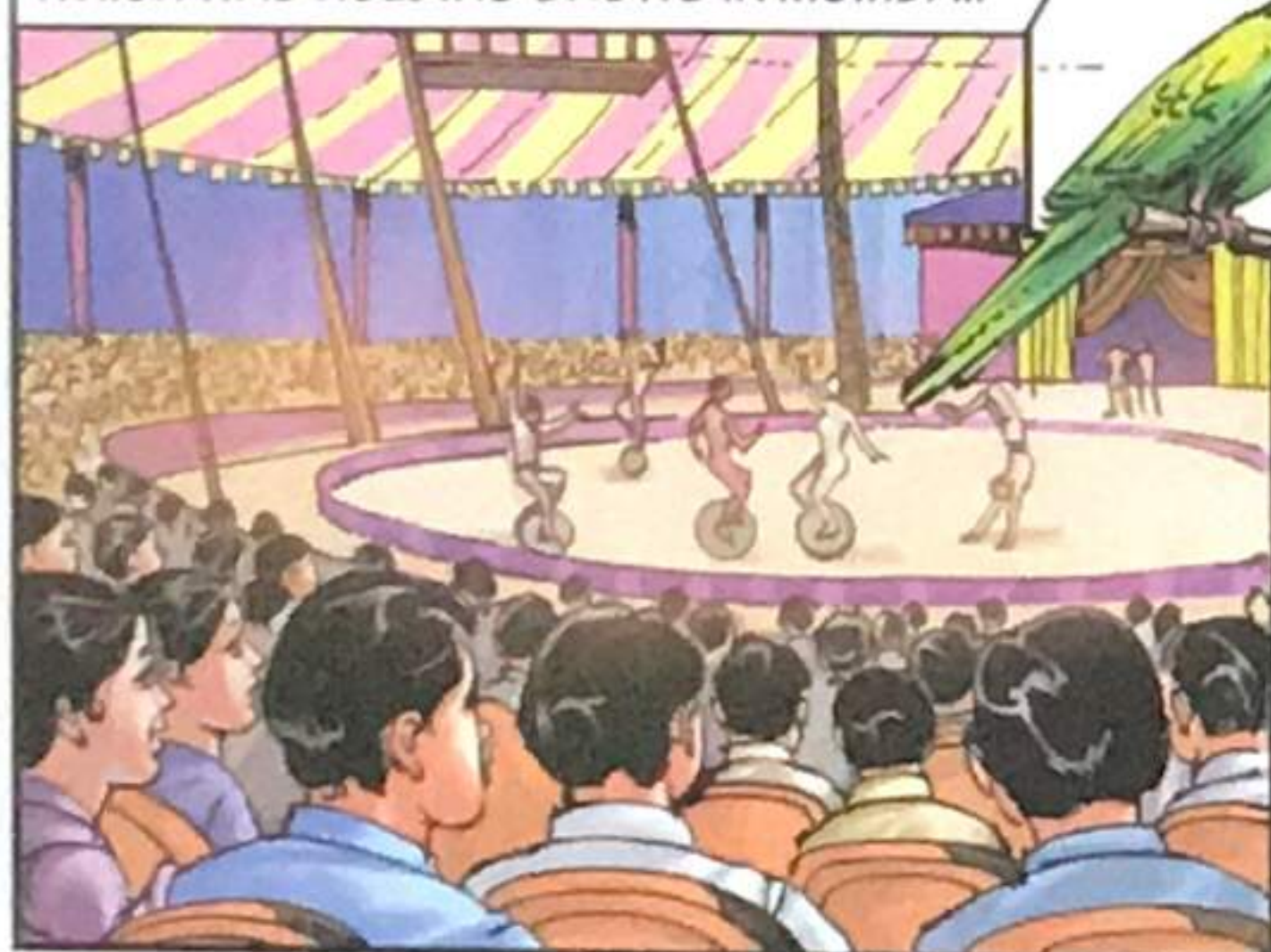
EACH ONE OF YOU IS A WINNER. IF SOMEONE SAYS YOU ARE NO GOOD, DO NOT LOSE BELIEF IN YOURSELF.

HE WAS INVITED TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESSES IN SEMINARS ORGANISED BY NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL BODIES.

I APPEAL TO YOU, DO NOT REJECT ANY CHILD. THE POISON OF REJECTION, EVEN LORD SHIVA CANNOT DIGEST, LET ALONE A POOR CHILD.



A FEW YEARS LATER, PAI INVITED READERS OF ACK AND TINKLE TO CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS, UNDER THE BIG DOME OF THE GEMINI CIRCUS WHICH WAS HOLDING SHOWS IN MUMBAI.

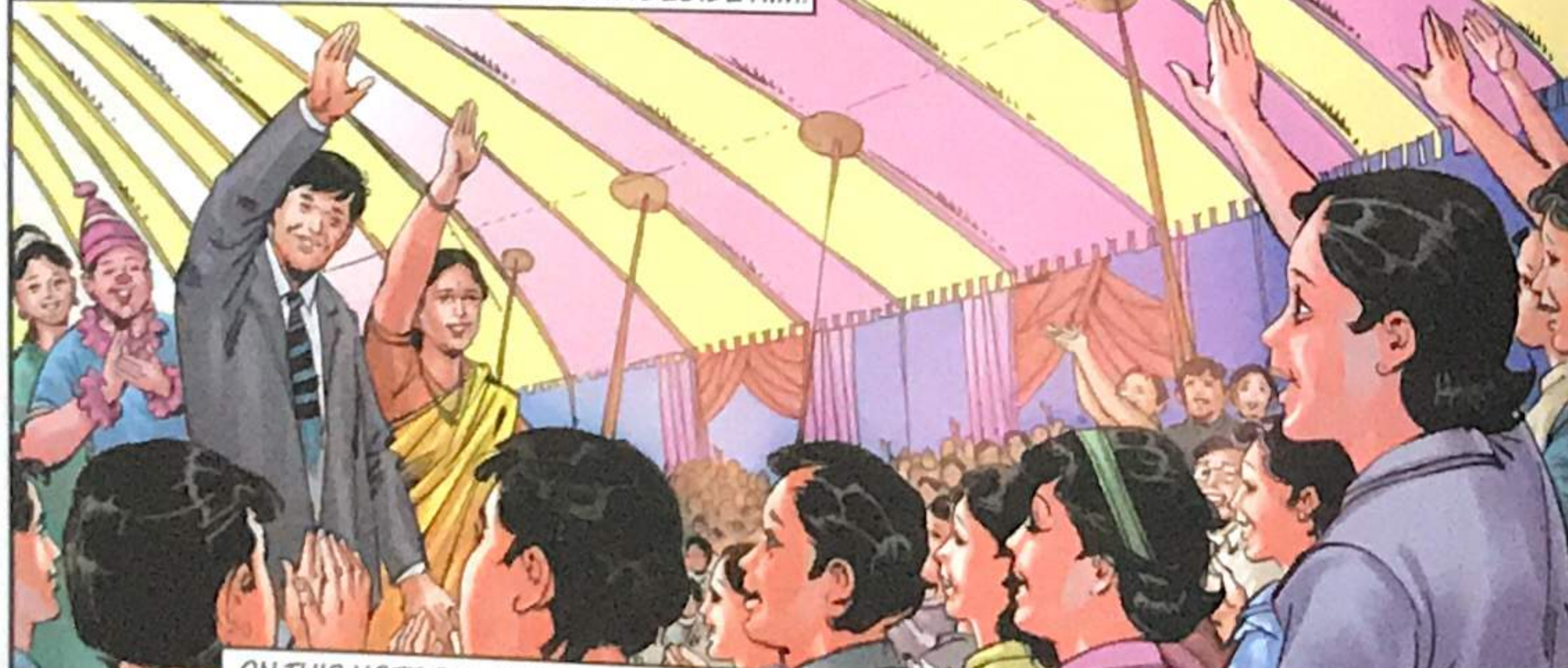


AT THE END OF THE SHOW AS CHILDREN CLAPPED, A PARROT SCREAMED -



UNCLE PAI, WE LOVE YOU. WE LOVE YOU, UNCLE PAI!

UNCLE PAI BURST OUT LAUGHING, WITH LALITA BESIDE HIM.



ON THIS NOTE OF LAUGHTER WE END THE STORY OF THIS LOVABLE STORYTELLER. HE WAS CALLED ANANT, THE ENDLESS ONE. HE BROUGHT ENDLESS JOY TO THE CHILDREN OF THIS COUNTRY.

## WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

### EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu  
Agastya  
Andhaka  
Aniruddha  
Aruni And Uttanka  
Ashwini Kumars  
Ayyappan  
Bahubali  
Bhanumati  
Bheema And Hanuman  
Bheeshma  
Chandrahama  
Dasharatha  
Dhruva And Ashtavakra  
Draupadi  
Drona  
Elephanta  
Gandhari  
Ganesha  
Ganesha And The Moon  
Ganga  
Garuda  
Ghatotkacha  
Hanuman  
Hanuman To The Rescue  
Harischandra  
Heroes Of Hampi  
Indra And Shachi  
Indra And Shibi  
Indra And Vritra  
Jagannatha Of Puri  
Jayadratha  
Kacha And Devayani  
Karna  
Karttikeya  
Konark  
Krishna  
Krishna And Jarasandha  
Krishna And Narakasura  
Krishna And Rukmini  
Krishna And Shishupala  
Krishna And The False  
Vaasudeva  
Kubera  
Kumbhakarna  
Mahabharata  
Mahiravana  
Nachiketa  
Nahusha  
Nala Damayanti  
Pareekshit  
Parashurama  
Prabhavati  
Pradyumna  
Prahlaad  
Purushottam Dev And  
Padmavati  
Rama  
Ravana Humbled  
Saraswati  
Sati And Shiva  
Savitri  
Shiva Parvati  
Stories Of Creation  
Subhadra  
Sudama  
Sukanya  
Surya  
Tales From The  
Upanishads  
Tales Of Arjuna  
Tales Of Balarama  
Tales Of Durga  
Tales Of Indra  
Tales Of Narada

Tales Of Shiva  
Tales Of Vishnu  
Tales Of Yudhishtira  
Tapati  
Thanjavur  
The Churning Of The  
Ocean  
The Gita  
The Golden Mongoose  
The King In  
A Parrot's Body  
The Lord Of Lanka  
The Pandava Princes  
The Pandavas In Hiding  
The Parijata Tree  
The Sons Of Rama  
The Syamantaka Gem  
Tirupati  
Tripura  
Uloopi  
Vaishno Devi  
Vali  
Vishwamitra  
Yayati

### VISIONARIES

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Adi Shankara  
Albert Einstein  
Anant Pai  
Babasaheb Ambedkar  
Basaveshwara  
Buddha  
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu  
Chanakya  
Chokha Mela  
Dayananda  
Deshbandhu  
Chittaranjan Das  
Eknath  
Fa Hien  
Ghanshyamdas Birla  
Guru Arjan  
Guru Gobind Singh  
Guru Har Gobind  
Guru Nanak  
Guru Tegh Bahadur  
Hiuen Tsang  
J.R.D Tata  
Jagadis Chandra Bose  
Jamsetji Tata  
Jawaharlal Nehru  
Jayaprakash Narayan  
Jim Corbett  
Jnaneshwar  
Kabir  
Kalidasa  
Lal Bahadur Shastri  
Lokmanya Tilak  
M. S. Subbulakshmi  
Madhvacharya  
Mahavira  
Marie And Pierre Curie  
Megasthenes  
Mirabai  
Mother Teresa  
Narayan Guru  
Rabindranath Tagore  
Ram Shastri  
Ramana Maharshi  
Ramanuja  
Salim Ali  
Shankar Dev  
Soordas  
Sri. Ramakrishna  
Srinivasa Ramanujan  
Subramania Bharati

Swami Chinmayananda  
Swami Pranavananda  
Tales Of Sai Baba  
Tansen  
Tulsidas  
Vidyasagar  
Vivekananda  
Zarathushtra

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Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Ananda Math  
Ancestors Of Rama  
Devi Choudhurani  
Durgesh Nandini  
Kadambari  
Kannagi  
Kapala Kundala  
Kumanan  
Maarthaanda Varma  
Malavika  
Manonmani  
Prince Jivaka  
Raj Singh  
Ratnavali  
Shakuntala  
The Adventures Of  
Pratapana  
The Elusive Kaka  
Udayana  
Urvashi  
Vasantasena  
Vasavadatta  
Veer Dhaval

### FABLES AND HUMOUR

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

A Bag Of Gold Coins  
Amrapali  
Andher Nagari  
Angulimala  
Bikal The Terrible

### BIRBAL STORIES

Birbal The Clever  
Birbal The Genius  
Birbal The Just  
Birbal The Wise  
Birbal The Witty  
Birbal To The Rescue  
The Inimitable Birbal

Chandralalat  
Dhola And Maru  
Friends And Foes  
Gopal And The Cowherd  
Gopal The Jester

### HITOPADESHA TALES

Choice Of Friends  
How Friends Are Parted  
Hothal

### JATAKA TALES

Battle Of Wits  
Bird Stories  
Deer Stories  
Elephant Stories  
Jackal Stories  
Monkey Stories  
Nandi Vishala  
Stories Of Courage  
Stories Of Wisdom  
Tales Of Misers  
The Deadly Feast  
The Giant And  
The Dwarf  
The Hidden Treasure  
The Magic Chant

The Mouse Merchant  
True Friends  
Kanwal And Kehar  
Kesari The Flying Thief  
King Kusha  
Manduka

### PANCHATANTRA TALES

Crows And Owls  
How The Jackal Ate  
The Elephant  
The Brahmin And  
The Goat  
The Dullard  
The Greedy Mother-in-law

The Jackal And  
The Wardrum

Raman Of Tenali

Raman The Matchless Wit

Sahasramalla

Sakshi Gopal

Satwant Kaur

Sharan Kaur

Shrenik

Sukhu And Dukhu

Sundari

Tales Of Maryada Rama

The Acrobat

The Adventures

Of Agad Datta

The Adventures Of

Baddu And Chhotu

The Bridegroom's Ring

The Celestial Necklace

The Clever Dancer

The Cowherd Of Alawi

The Fearless Boy

The Fool's Disciples

The Golden Sand

The Green Demon

The Unhappy Tiger

The Learned Pandit

The Lost Prince

The Magic Grove

The Miraculous Conch

The Mystery Of

The Missing Gift

The Pandit And The

Milkmaid

The Pig And The Dog

The Pious Cat

The Priceless Gem

The Prince And

The Magician

The Prophecy

The Queen's Necklace

The Rainbow Prince

The Secret Of The

Talking Bird

The Silent Teacher

The Tiger And The

Woodpecker

The Tiger Eater

Thugsen

Vidyut Chora

Vikramaditya's Throne

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Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

A Nation Awakes  
Ahilyabai Holkar  
Ajatashatru  
Akbar  
Amar Singh Rathor  
Ashoka  
Babur  
Bagha Jatin  
Bajirao I

Baladitya And  
Yashodharma  
Baiban  
Banda Bahadur  
Bappa Rawal  
Beni Madho And Pir Ali  
Bhagat Singh  
Bidhi Chand  
Bimbisara  
Chand Bibi  
Chandra Shekhar Azad  
Chandragupta Maurya  
Chennamma Of Keladi  
Dara Shukho And  
Aurangzeb

Durgadas

Ellora Caves

Hakka And Bukka

Hari Singh Nalwa

Harsha

Hemu

Humayun

Jahangir

Jallianwala Bagh

Kaipana Chawla

Kochunni

Krishnadeva Raya

Kunwar Singh

Lachil Barphukan

Lalitaditya

Mangal Pande

Noor Jahan

Padmini

Panna And Hadi Rani

Paurava And Alexander

Prithviraj Chauhan

Raja Bhoja

Raja Raja Chola

Rana Kumbha

Rana Pratap

Rana Sanga

Rani Abbakka

Rani Durgavati

Rani Of Jhansi

Ranjit Singh

Rash Bihari Bose

Roopmati

Sambhaji

Samudra Gupta

Sea Route To India

Shah Jahan

Shalivahana

Shantala

Sher Shah

Shivaji

Subhas Chandra Bose

Sultana Razia

Surya Sen

Tachcholi Othenan

Tales Of Shivaji

Tanaji

Tenzing Norgay

The Historic City Of Delhi

The Rani Of Kittur

Tipu Sultan

Veer Hammir

Veer Savarkar

Velu Thampi

Vikramaditya



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